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Multilateral Talks on Bosnia Held in London

LD2504211294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2059 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Sidorov]

[Text] London April 26 TASS—Representatives of the United Kingdom, Russia, the United States and France held consultations on finding a solution to the Bosnian conflict in the British capital on Monday. British Prime Minister John Major, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Russian representative, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, who arrived here, took part in the meeting.

British foreign department told ITAR-TASS that during the consultations discussions were held on comprehensive measures to normalise the situation in the former Yugoslavia on the basis of a universal ceasefire and settlement of territorial disputes. In particular, the idea of creating a special contact group, comprising high-ranking representatives of all sides interested in the speedy implementation of ceasefire in Bosnia, was put forward. According to preliminary reports, its first session will be held on Tuesday. That is why there is no cause to hurry the events, the British Foreign Office told ITAR-TASS.

Addressing journalists after his meeting with the prime minister, Vitaliy Churkin, who is putting stress on diplomatic, and not military means to overcome the critical situation in Bosnia, called on the warring sides of the commiunity to display goodwill in the interests of signing a peace agreement.

Kozyrev Proposes International Conference for 1999

LD2504145894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1325 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Taras Lariokhin]

[Text] The Hague, 25 Apr—Russia is proposing to hold a third international peace conference in 1999. This is stated in a note by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. The document was read out today in the Palace of Peace at a session of the Administrative Council of the permanent chamber of the International Court of Arbitration by Leonid Skotnikov, the Russian ambassador to the Netherlands.

On the instructions of President Boris Yeltsin and on behalf of Russia as chairman of the two peace conferences at The Hague in 1899 and 1907, which adopted the international convention on the laws and customs of war, the Russian foreign minister appeals to all states with a proposal to discuss the idea of convening a third international peace conference, the note says.

The agenda of the proposed conference, the document says, could include questions of improving the system of the peaceful settlement of disputes, filling the gaps in international humanitarian law applicable to armed conflicts, and also creating a system of international criminal justice in relation to crimes against peace and mankind and other international law violations.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 26 Apr

LD2604063294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0606 GMT 26 Apr 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS—KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on Chernobyl disaster anniversary.

The newspaper carries a map of the European part of the former Soviet Union showing areas of radiological contamination after the breakdown at the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

"Radiation affected 70 percent of Belarusian territory. Two million and three hundred thousand Belarusians, among them half a million children, are the direct victims of the Chernobyl disaster. These figure are comparable only with the number of victims of Nazi genocide: every fourth out of ten million Belarusians was killed."

The newspaper also reports the lack of funds for the elimination of the aftermath of the disaster, a shortage of hospital accommodation, and scarcity of medicines in clinics.

PRAVDA on the same subject:

"In 1986 the misfortune united people, nations and countries. Now we live wide apart. Chernobyl-affected people regret the break-up of the Soviet Union. They see how the programme for the elimination of the aftermath of the disaster has virtually disintegrated. Meanwhile, the Chernobyl disaster aftermath continues to impair people's health and claim their lives. In 1993 alone, 7,000 more Chernobyl troubleshooters became incapacitated."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) on Cherbobyl disaster aftermath:

"Out of 300,000 people in Russia who were affected by the Chernobyl disaster, 30,000 became invalids, more than 5,000 died, and death rate among them grows with every passing year. More than 30,000 of them have no housing accomodation or are in need of improved housing".

The newspaper gives opinions of experts who believe that there are no guarantees against other nuclear breakdowns so far.

"One may ask how many people would be ready to display heroism and self-sacrifice shown by the Chernobyl troubleshooters, if the country, in the name of which they sacrificed themselves, has sought to forget about them and their needs?"

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI quotes Professor Viktor Mikhailov, Russian Federation minister for nuclear power, as saying that "technically, a breakdonw similar to the Chernobyl one is ruled out. However, this does not mean that no incidents could happen again".

TRUD carries an article dedicated to the memory of academician Valeriy Legasov. In 1986, he was a member of the governmental commission for inquiry into the Chernobyl disaster and directly participated in putting out the fire there. In 1988 he committed suicide. The writer of the article makes an attempt to unravel the mystery why Legasov took his own life.

TRUD interviewed federation council speaker Vladimir Shumeyko who made an evaluation of a draft treaty on civic accord in Russia. He agreed with the document in principle.

"I have some observations to make on individual clauses of the document. But I believe that if we set about refining it, it will never be adopted. Therefore I regard as extremely important and correct the proposal to set up a standing constitutional commission. Such a commission is essential for the entire duration of the treaty and moratorium on political wars", Shumeyko said.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA runs an inteview with constitutional court member Valeriy Zorkin. Asked about his attitude to the draft treaty on civic accord, Zorkin said that "while sharing on the whole the idea of the treaty and supporting it, I think its initiators has seriously miscalculated, failing to arrange for a countrywide discussion of the draft treaty, as is provided for in an appropriate presidential instruction.

"The treaty will be really effective when it becomes agreement of the people, not just of elites or individual citizens even if they are worthy of respect".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reprints Boris Yeltsin's interview with DER SPIEGEL magazine. Touching upon the question of Russia's involvement in NATO's Partnership-for-Peace programme, the Russian president said: "We are prepared to sign the partnership agrement but at the same time we would like to sign with NATO an additional protocol to settle a number of principled matters".

NEZAVISIAMAYA GAZETA runs a list of 50 most powerful and influential figures of Russian business. The list includes the names of the chiefs of major commercial organisations—banks. Exchanges, foundations, joint-stock companies, trading houses, insurance companies, joint ventures, etc.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA runs a report delivered by Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Russian Communist Party, at an all-Russia party conference in April.

Grachev Urges Continuation of Black Sea Fleet Talks

LD2504155294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1536 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said that despite the failure of his talks with the Ukrainian defence minister on the Black Sea Fleet the dialogue must continue at a higher level.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow on Monday, Grachev said that it is pointless to begin a new round of talks unless top level officials agree to take part. He believes that the talks should involve the first vice-prime ministers or even the prime ministers of the two countries.

The minister believes that before that it is necessary to agree some navy terms in order to rule out any misinterpretations in the future. Ukraine has been considering the term "navy" as including only ships and other navy vessels. However, in reality the navy includes, apart from ships, navy aviation, marines, bases and logistics units.

"The navy is not only what floats but also what provides support on the ground. The division of ships and vessels of the Black Sea Fleet is only one tenth of the implementation of the decision on the division of the fleet on the whole, only its first stage," Grachev said.

He said that at the talks in Sevastopol Ukraine set forth unacceptable conditions, including joint location of the Ukrainian Navy and the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol, which contradicts the agreement reached by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk.

Ukraine suggested that Russian Black Sea Fleet ships should enter and leave their temporary bases through two-mile sea corridors and request permission three days in advance. Additionally, it proposed to regulate the navigation of Russian warships in Ukrainian territorial waters and the economic zone not by international acts, but Ukrainian laws.

Grachev Says Fleet Issue Stymied Until Election

PM2504154594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 1

[Viktor Litovkin report: "General Grachev Sees No Tragedy in Breakdown of Sevastopol Talks"]

[Text] "The dividing up of the Black Sea Fleet, in my view, is part of the election campaign, and it is impossible to resolve this problem until the presidential elections in Ukraine," Russian Defense Minister Army General P. Grachev stated in answer to a question from your IZVESTIYA correspondent.

On his return to Moscow from Sevastopol, where he headed Russia's official delegation at the talks with Ukraine on the problem of dividing up the Black Sea Fleet, the general held a press conference for Russian and foreign journalists. Grachev described the Ukrainian delegation's stance vis-a-vis Russia as discriminatory.

Kiev proposed creating a base for the Russian Black Sea Fleet, which, as is well known, includes 85 percent of the fleet's ships and craft, in a small coastal settlement. Kiev's representatives also refused to discuss dividing up the fleet's infrastructure, namely bases, aircraft, airfields, depots, and shore units, without which the fleet cannot exist. Moreover, the Ukrainian military proposed that Russian ships should put to sea and return only via a single channel, each time securing the Ukrainian side's permission three days in advance.

The Russian defense minister said that his department has no confrontation with the Ukrainian military. No tragedy occurred. Russia expressed its viewpoint and listened to the Ukrainian side's position, and let the presidents now put the military right. The two sides simply must resolve the problem on a compromise basis in the interests of both countries, their peoples, and the sailors of the Black Sea Fleet.

Russia's position is this: We must continue the talks, set up a state commission under the leadership of the prime ministers or their first deputies, and include in the delegation not only military men and diplomats, but also specialist economists, financiers, and others.

Fleet Commander Opposes U.S. Involvement

LD2504145394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Commander of the Black Sea Fleet Admiral Eduard Baltin said he was surprised by Ukrainian politicians' statements that a third party should be involved in tackling the Black Sea Fleet problem (the U.S.—Interfax). He told Interfax that he categorically opposed the idea of involving Washington in this dispute.

"To begin with, this is Russia's problem. Historically, it is Russia that is conducting talks with Ukraine. So Russia will hardly put up with the idea of American participation," he said.

Speaking about the talks on the Black Sea Fleet between the Russian and Ukrainian defense ministers, Baltin said that Kiev had interpreted the Moscow agreement between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents in its own way and violated one of its basic provisions on the separate location of the Russian and Ukrainian headquarters. The presence of the Ukrainian and Russian headquarters in Sevastopol would destabilize the situation in the city and complicate the work of the personnel, he said.

Such a situation may entail unpredictable consequences, he added.

To quote Baltin, behind the Ukrainian position is the lack of money for the construction of its own naval base. "It is much easier to live at someone else's expense," he said.

Commenting on the allegations that Russia scuppered the talks, he said that "attack is the best form of defense." "Obviously, Kiev has taken this saying to heart," he said.

Fleet Claims Russian Personnel Pressured

LD2504163294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1527 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—"Ukrainians have undertaken a series of measures against the Russian personnel of the Black Sea Fleet which are impossible to call friendly or constructive", ITAR-TASS was told in the Black Sea Fleet press centre on Monday.

The fleet representative reported that, in particular, one of the Ukrainian naval groups, stationed on Cape Khersones, held military exercises in which a Russian regiment was considered as the "potential enemy".

After the end of Russian-Ukrainian negotiations in Sevastopol on dividing the Black Sea Fleet, Ukrainian military leaders have increased their pressure on Russian personnel under their command to take an oath of loyalty to Ukraine, the representative said. They are using not only blackmail and threats, but lures of promotions in the Ukrainian Navy and a respectable increase in pay.

The Russian Black Sea Fleet press centre thinks that the Ukrainian naval officers are acting against the official position of the Ukrainian Government, which has often repeated its commitment to a civilized settlement of the Black Sea Fleet problem.

Russia, Ukraine Divide Fleet Warships

LD2604120194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] In Sevastopol the Russian and Ukrainian negotiating teams have agreed, according to the commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy Felix Gromov, that 100 of the Black Sea Fleet's 143 war ships will belong to Russia and the remaining 43 to Ukraine.

The negotiating teams led by Defense Ministers Pavel Grachev and Vitaliy Radetskyy, met on April 21 and 22. It was agreed, in principle, that Ukraine would own 164 vessels, or 18.3 percent, of the Fleet, and Russia—the remaining 669 of the Fleet's 833 ships and support boats.

In an exclusive interview with INTERFAX Gromov said the vessels' age, cost and class were taken into consideration. On its own suggestion Ukraine would have more ships than previously planned (more than 18.3 pct of the Fleet's total strength) but its ships would be of a lower class, whereas Russia would have more first and second class vessels—destroyers and large antisubmarine boats.

The antisubmarine cruiser Moskva with the deadweight of 18,000 tonnes, is the Fleet's biggest ship. It is to belong to Russia. The biggest ship Ukraine is to have, is Getman Sagaidachni with the deadweight of some 4,500 tonnes.

Gromov said that under the Yeltsin-Kravchuk Massandra agreement the Fleet's aircraft are to belong to Russia.

Yeltsin Visit to Ukraine Not on 'Immediate Agenda'

LD2604084194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0831 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS—President Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine is not on his immediate agenda, presidential press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov says in a statement forwarded to ITAR-TASS today.

The statement says: "The mass media has reported with references to diplomatic sources that considered at present 'is the possibility of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine' and that 'the problem of the Black Sea Navy could be discussed at a possible meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents'."

In connection with this, Kostikov explained that "Boris Yeltsin regards the situation in quite another sequence. Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine is not on the president's immediate agenda. Yeltsin believes it is first necessary to resolve the Black Sea Navy problem proceeding from the fundamental agreement on separate naval bases. After this problem is settled and a political climate of trust and dependability is created, it is necessary to draw up a full-scale treaty, which is to open up prospects for the Russian president's visit to Kiev," says the statement of the presidential press secretary.

NATO Seeks To Cooperate With Moscow on Bosnia

LD2504122994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1158 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Beskromniy]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—A high-ranking NATO official said the alliance is going to closely cooperate with Moscow in solving the Bosnian crisis.

"The North Atlantic Alliance intends to closely cooperate with Russia" in solving the Bosnian crisis, Gebhardt von Moltke, NATO deputy secretary general for political issues, told TASS on Monday, adding that NATO welcomes all initiatives undertaken by the USA, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations.

"It is absolutely clear that it is imsposible to ensure security in Europe and in the world without Russia—a major Euro-Asian power", he stressed.

"That is why we would welcome and expect that Russia joins the (NATO) Partnership for Peace plan whose participants will share responsibility for ensuring a just and lasting peace", von Moltke said.

He is heading a NATO delegation which participates in the international conference "Russia and NATO: Security in Euroatlantic Region" which opened in Moscow on Monday.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Bosnia

LD2504170994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1639 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Apr—"Active work, both by special representatives for the former Yugoslavia and by the foreign ministers of Russia, the United States, and EC with UN participation," is called for to lay the basis for a summit meeting on a settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina to be held in the near future. This is set out in a statement released here today by the Russian Federation Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman.

"We expect both the Bosnian partics and our partners working to achieve a settlement to be actively involved in this process," the document stresses. The stance taken by the Russian Foreign Ministry is expressed once again in the statement: "Despite the complexity of the situation, military measures should not mask the main thing—policies to bring about a political settlement."

Further on Foreign Ministry Statement

LD2504191194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1812 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow has put forward new proposals for a settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"A meeting of the (U.N.) Security Council convened at the initiative of Russia has decided that the decisions made by NATO in response to the request of the U.N. secretary general to protect Gorazde and other 'safe havens' in Bosnia were correct," a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement issued in Moscow on Monday. "Grave as the present situation is, military measures must not replace the principal line, that towards a peaceful settlement. We expect that the Bosnian parties and our partners seeking a settlement will be actively involved in the process."

Russia's settlement program has the following principal elements, the spokesman said:

1. Tighter regulations for safe havens in Bosnia on the basis of U.N. Security Council decisions.

2. An agreement between Serbs and Muslims for an indefinite and universal cease-fire. Such a document has already been drafted and must be signed as soon as possible without any reservations. All parties to the conflict must realize that the international community will tolerate no more provocations or barbaric responses to them. Both mean disregard for the United Nations.

3. Embarking on a comprehensive peaceful settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Such a decision must take account of the legitimate interests and equal rights of all three peoples of Bosnia. A Muslim-Croat federation would form no basis for the future of the Bosnian Serbs. The sharing of territory must be based on earlier plans and be carried out only by negotiation. A political agreement must naturally involve all humanitarian aspects of the Bosnian problem.

4. Progress towards peace in Bosnia must be accompanied by weaker sanctions against Yugoslavia.

"There is a need for active work both on the part of special envoys to the former Yugoslavia and on the part of the foreign ministers of Russia, the United States and the European Union, with the participation of the United Nations. This would provide a basis for convening in the near future a summit on a settlement in Bosnia," the spokesman said.

Kozyrev on Serb Pullout, Churkin's Remarks

MK2604071094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 2

[Mikhail Karpov report under the "Bosnia" rubric: "Chances of Peaceful Settlement Are There. Success Is Expected if Movement Toward Settlement Proceeds in Two Parallel Courses"]

[Excerpts] The NATO ultimatum seems to have once again demonstrated its effectiveness as a peacekeeping tool. Yesterday, the Bosnian Serbs continued the pullout of heavy arms from Gorazde. Although Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev remarked yesterday that these actions were at least one week late, one still should not underestimate the importance of this fact. [passage omitted]

In regard to Vitaliy Churkin's words heard in the Sunday television program "Itogi," Kozyrev said that the constant rotation of Russian ambassadors is a style normal for the Foreign Ministry's work, but Churkin has yet to work on settling the Yugoslav crisis.

The threat of new NATO strikes against Bosnian Serb positions still remains. At the same time, the current diplomatic activity by the world community leaders opens ways for the resumption of the interrupted negotiating process.

Activities of Duma Delegation in Yugoslavia

LD2504184294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Video report from Yugoslavia by correspondent Vladimir Solovyev, including recording of interview with N. Bezborodov, head of Russian State Duma delegation; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Solovyev] For over three days the first official delegation of the Russian State Duma to former Yugoslav republics has been continuing its familiarization with the details of the Balkan tragedy. After a number of meetings in the Yugoslav capital at the weekend, the deputies visited Pale and Sarajevo where they held consultations with leaders of the Bosnian Serbs and Sarajevo Muslims. They visited the Russian paratroop battalion in Grbavica, Sarajevo's Serb section. Today the parliamentarians saw Vukovar—a Yugoslav Stalingrad—and Klisa, the main base of the Russian contingent of blue helmets.

[Bezborodov] We believe that the initiative put forward now by Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin must be urgently discussed. It is a question of holding a conference attended by Russia, the United States, the United Nations, the European Union, and the parties to the conflict, in order to sit at the negotiating table as soon as possible and to solve all the disputes peacefully.

[Solovyev] Some members of the Russian delegation took a special UN flight to Zagreb, the Croatian capital, today. The Russian deputies are to meet Serbia President Slobodan Milosevic tomorrow.

Observers Return From UN Mission in Yugoslavia

LD2504150494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1352 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Denis Perkin]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—Eleven Russian observers who served at U.N. mission's civil police in former Yugoslavia, returned to Moscow on Monday. They monitored movements of humanitarian cargoes, exchange of refugees and observance of human rights in that region in the framework of U.N. peace-keeping activities.

"Such practice exists at all the U.N. missions in various countries when civil police work along with military observers," Aleksandra Zemskova, representative of the Interior Ministry personnel department, told journalists later in the day.

Belgrade, Zagreb, Sarajevo and Tuzla are some of the places where Russian observers work. Their first group was dispatched to the Balkans in the spring of 1992. Russian Interior Ministry staff members have been regularly relieving one another since that time.

Humanitarian Aid Convoy Departs for Belgrade

LD2604100094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0947 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Marina Ryklina]

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS—A convoy of 50 heavy Kamaz trucks left the city of Noginsk, 60 kilometres east of Moscow, early on Tuesday bound for Belgrade. It is expected to arrive there in several days and will deliver 23 tonnes of humanitarian aid. The trucks are to replace the vehicles which have been working in Yugoslavia for a year.

The convoy will also bring Russian air transport experts who will work in the Tuzla airport.

Yeltsin Views Bosnia, Relations With EU

AU2504142794 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 25 Apr 94 pp 154-157

[Interview with Russian President Boris Yeltsin by Joerg R. Mettke, Hans Werner Kilz, and Fritjof Meyer in Moscow; date not given: "Ready for Any Struggle"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Boris Nikolayevich, Russia has worked for the benefit of the Serbs in the Balkans, and the Serbs broke the agreements with your envoy. Do you feel cheated by the Serbs now?

[Yeltsin] I do have this feeling. Russia, the United States, and Germany have exerted their influence where they were listened to—the Americans on the Muslims, the Germans on the Croats. We were the ones with the stronger influence on the Serbs. In this way we jointly prevented a harsh militant conflict.

[DER SPIEGEL] But the Serbs have attacked Gorazde again and have not kept their promise.

[Yeltsin] I discussed the matter with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and suggested to convene a summit. Russia, the United States, the European Union, the United Nations, and the other sides should sit down together at a table somewhere in Europe to sign an agreement on a cease-fire and on peace after such an agreement has been prepared by the foreign ministers. Last night I had an extensive conversation with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

[DER SPIEGEL] And the result was?

[Yeltsin] Air raids can only worsen the situation, the war becomes endless. If we all exerted our influence as the guarantors of peace and could look into the eyes of the Yugoslav leaders, then a final agreement could be achieved.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you agree with Clinton or are there differences now?

[Yeltsin] Our relations are close, we are good partners. It is normal in the relations between two states that the positions do not fully concur on all issues.

[DER SPIEGEL] Thus, you are against bombings?

[Yeltsin] We have the experience in our CIS countries that any violence gives rise to counterviolence. The attempt to defuse the situation and to come to an agreement is better.

[DER SPIEGEL] But you would like a UN mandate for the CIS states?

[Yeltsin] The United Nations has refused to send its peacekeeping forces to the CIS. Therefore, this remains our task. The United Nations can just send observers, but we must send the troops—to Georgia, Ossetia, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Nagorno-Karabakh.

[DER SPIEGEL] What could the Germans do in the Balkans? Should they also send soldiers?

[Yeltsin] We would welcome it very much if the Germans were able to use their soldiers as peacekeeping forces, not only in Yugoslavia.

[DER SPIEGEL] For that the FRG would have to amend its constitution. Would you find it good if the Germans were freer in sending troops?

[Yeltsin] I would consider this the right path. This year, our army will finally withdraw from German territory. In return, so to speak, the German Army could also be used together with the UN peacekeeping forces in the CIS countries and thus take over an important and noble mission. After all, we are all Europeans.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why did you intervene in the Balkans—to show Russia in the role of the superpower, or did you want to help your Slav brothers?

[Yeltsin] We let ourselves be guided by the final goal; we are referring to the UN resolutions and the decision by the Security Council.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is the NATO offer of a "Partnership for Peace" still acceptable to you?

[Yeltsin] It is a fair offer, but some things still have to be clarified. We have a big army, just as NATO. We are willing to sign a partnership agreement, but, at the same time, we also want to negotiate an additional protocol with NATO about basic issues. Two formerly hostile blocks now want to cooperate militarily. This cannot happen completely without technical problems. We have other weapons systems, which are very different from those of NATO. Now they probably have to be harmonized.

[DER SPIEGEL] Recently you have often complained that Russia's size is not sufficiently respected in the world. Where do you see discrimination against your country?

[Yeltsin] I can give you a long list. The Cocom Committee [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] has now been dissolved, but the Western countries immediately established other committees, which are to regulate controls of goods exports to the former socialist countries in a new way. Why is Russia not represented in these committees? We were not even invited to the preparations. This is unjust.

[DER SPIEGEL] A second example?

[Yeltsin] We are part of Europe, we have been a European state for centuries, even though part of our territory is in Asia. We have agreed with the European Union on signing an economic agreement. For our accession we first have to develop an economic model. However, for this purpose we would need a cooperation agreement between the European Union and Russia. We have not made progress in this matter for a year now.

[DER SPIEGEL] You and European Union Commission President Jacques Delors signed a declaration in Brussels last December....

[Yeltsin] ....more and more conditions are put up that clearly discriminate against Russia. We do not demand preferential treatment, just the same rights as any other European country, even though Russia is a superpower.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Council of Europe does not want to accept Russia as a member because its democratic institutions have not been consolidated. The seven industrial powers do not want to have Russia in its G-7 club as long as the Russian market economy is so little developed. What is the basis of Russia's role as a superpower, apart from nuclear weapons?

[Yeltsin] I am for the complete destruction of nuclear powers. A dream of mankind would be fulfilled if we entered the 21st century without nuclear powers. Russia can fully join in that. Russia remains a superpower also without nuclear weapons. Our greatness lies in tradition, in history, in our culture. I do not want to offend the Americans, but their history goes back only 200 years, while ours is millennia old.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does this justify the claim of being a superpower?

[Yeltsin] There is our gigantic territory of 17 million square kilometers, our population of 150 million. And then the natural resources. Our country has everything that man needs for life. Our natural gas resources of trillions of cubic meters are sufficient of Russia and for all of Europe for a few centuries.

[DER SPIEGEL] But the democratic institutions are still underdeveloped.

[Yeltsin] Certainly, Russia has to live up to the international standard there, too. It needs a mixed market economy. man's rights and freedoms must be respected and protected. This is the top priority of our Constitution. However, the decisive elements for our weight and our greatness are tradition, history, and culture.

[DER SPIEGEL] This weight is largely bearing down on your neighbors in the CIS. Will Russia act as a power of order on the territory of the former Soviet Union also without a UN mandate?

[Yeltsin] This lies within the discretion of these states. Georgia wants the United Nations with its peacekeeping forces to bring about order in its conflict with Abkhazia. Russia is to provide some of the blue-helmet soldiers. We would be willing to do that. However, UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali told me that this has no chance—the United Nations can, at best, send observers and is grateful to Russia for its readiness to send soldiers there. According to this model, Russia could also act in other hot spots on the territory of the former Soviet Union. If the CSCE, the United Nations, and NATO joined in, we would simply have fewer problems.

[DER SPIEGEL] Many of the troops that have been withdrawn from Germany, are now stationed in Kaliningrad, in the former Koenigsberg. Why does Russia need such a powerful base there? Who is threatening this region?

[Yeltsin] No one is threatening this region. There were simply barracks vacant in Kaliningrad. With the help of the German side, apartments for soldiers are now being build in various places. Later on, some troops will be transferred from Kaliningrad further to the east.

[DER SPIEGEL] You will come to Germany next month. Potential investors will want to hear something about guarantees—against bureaucratic harassment, impounding, arbitrary taxing, extortion of protection money. What can you offer in this respect?

[Yeltsin] We have founded an insurance company, which is to insure private investors against political risks with government guarantees.

[DER SPIEGEL] Like the Hermes insurance company in Germany?

[Yeltsin] Exactly. We have studied the experiences of Hermes and believe that we can use much of that. Of course, there are no government guarantees against economic risks anywhere in the world. Incompetent entrepreneurs will fall flat on their faces in our country just as elsewhere. Political risks, however, are to be compensated for. In Germany I will explain this extensively to private investors in mid-May. They must understand that they must not neglect the Russian market. This market is uniquely interesting for them.

[DER SPIEGEL] However, production is still going down in Russia and enormous subsidies are being paid to prevent mass unemployment. What about your promise that the economy will experience an upswing now?

[Yeltsin] I expect a stabilization this year. For two months the inflation rate has been 8 to 10 percent and thus considerably lower than last year. The production decline has also slowed. The budget deficit is also lower than last year. Armament production is deliberately being reduced. In other fields of production we want to reach a normal level by the end of the year.

[DER SPIEGEL] The country will become credit-worthy again?

[Yeltsin] A partial loan of $1.5 billion has just been approved by the IMF. In 1995, we want to fulfill the conditions for loans, too, so that we get further means from the G-7—perhaps then it will already be called G-8. This would alleviate the situation in our national economy and contribute to the stabilization of the ruble.

[DER SPIEGEL] Because they have economic problems, the voters have defected in masses to the nationalist firebrand [Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir] Zhirinovskiy. Do you intend to continue floating above the political groups, or will a presidential party soon be established?

[Yeltsin] The president is elected by all the people and is responsible for every citizen, not just for the followers of his own party. However, I can, of course, express more liking for one party than for another or for Zhirinovskiy's party.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why is it not possible to form a coalition against the chauvinist Zhirinovskiy? Is the agreement of all groups on a national consensus regarding constitutional good behavior supposed to be a substitute for that?

[Yeltsin] This is indeed intended. This agreement has great political importance and we expect that its signing on 28 April by the president, the government, the parliamentary chambers, the political parties, and the regions can form the basis for a consensus among the citizens in Russia.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you understand the concern of many people after Zhirinovskiy's appearances in Western Europe, or do you think that the Western reaction is exaggerated?

[Yeltsin] I think that the West greatly overestimates this man.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is the impression incorrect that Zhirinovskiy has a chance of becoming Russian president?

[Yeltsin] Completely incorrect.

[DER SPIEGEL] Among the radical democrats in Moscow the terms "autumn of the patriarchs" and "Yeltsin stagnation" are circulating. Are you tired of your office?

[Yeltsin] It is a tough job to be Russia's president in such a period. In my new book "On the Razor's Edge" [as published] I try to describe this. But courage does not desert me. I am always eager for action, I am ready for any struggle.

[DER SPIEGEL] Also beyond 1996?

[Yeltsin] I have committed myself to not talking about this issue.

[DER SPIEGEL] Committed yourself to whom?

[Yeltsin] The people from my team tried to persuade me for some time to run again in 1996. I did not want to. Then we agreed on a compromise: We will not talk about this issue for two years. In 1996, the decision will depend on whether the reforms in Russia cannot be reversed anymore. If I see that things are improving in Russia, I can leave this office with a clear conscience and a raised head. If the difficulties have not yet been overcome, then everything has to be reconsidered, depending on the situation. So far, I stick to my previous decision. I expect that, in 1996, Russia will stand on firm legs.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you see younger people in Russia's leadership, who can continue your policy and, at the same time, have enough charisma?

[Yeltsin] I see many who want to do that.

[DER SPIEGEL] Someone like General Rutskoy cannot become that anymore?

[Yeltsin] No, never. He is too narrow-minded. And since he became a criminal, he has lost his political profile.

[DER SPIEGEL] Are you worried that a vacuum could develop?

[Yeltsin] Very much so. I am now looking for candidates who can make a serious claim to the president's office in 1996. But this will be extremely difficult. The people must get used to someone and gain trust. This is not so easy.

[DER SPIEGEL] In your book you write that there are situations in which one should actually have to apply a whip—so that criminals, but also civil servants, stick to the laws. What other means can be used to establish a rule-of-law state?

[Yeltsin] All civilized countries of the world have followed the path of democracy, nothing must be invented anew. We have a Constitution, which has been brought about through a democratic referendum. We have elected our parliament democratically. More than 57 percent of those eligible to vote have elected their president. We have thrown the Communist ideology and the totalitarian state overboard. These are steps on the path toward democracy, even though we have not yet completed this path.

[DER SPIEGEL] Very soon the last formerly Soviet troops will leave the former GDR [German Democratic Republic]. German- Russians relations thus gain a new quality. Do you believe that these could be special relations in the future?

[Yeltsin] Russians and Germans are the two largest peoples in Europe. There relations with each other are of quite decisive importance for the fate of the entire continent.

[DER SPIEGEL] What can the Germans do to support the reforms in Russia?

[Yeltsin] The Germans are already doing enough. May God give that other states of the G-7 will act in the same way.

[DER SPIEGEL] You have very close, friendly relations with Helmut Kohl—not only in the sauna.

[Yeltsin] He is a very interesting man. One can discuss complicated political topics with him quite easily. We understand each other immediately.

[DER SPIEGEL] Are there any differences of opinion?

[Yeltsin] This is just natural, but each of us also understands these different positions. He says: In your situation you are doing the right thing. I often have to tell him the same: I would have done the same in your place. He emanates an incredible joie de vivre, optimism, and energy. Yes, I like Helmut Kohl a lot.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you believe that he understands the Russian people?

[Yeltsin] This is my impression. In any case, he understands me rather well.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you think he is a typical German?

[Yeltsin] I am not quite sure what a typical German is. Who is a typical Russian?

[DER SPIEGEL] Boris Yeltsin.

[Yeltsin] Any person is a special type, unique. He has his nationality, but also his individuality. Everyone is rooted in the traditions of his people. One can see that Helmut Kohl is a German.

[DER SPIEGEL] Boris Nikolayevich, thank you for this interview.

Kozyrev Proposes CIS Peacekeepers for Karabakh

LD2504160294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1520 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Apr— "We are constantly coming back to the fundamentals of multilateral cooperation. We understand that we are to live together and therefore want stability and peace more than anything else," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said in conversation with Rasul Guliyev, chairman of Azerbaijani National Assembly, today.

Karabakh is our common sorrow. The Russian plan is as realistic as possible. We are offering an honest mediation together with the CSCE and the United Nations, Andrey Kozyrev noted. We can introduce CIS peacekeeping forces, and this will not mean a Russian military presence but a peacemaking operation, the Russian minister stressed.

Rasul Guliyev highly appraised the Russian Foreign Ministry's efforts. The Azerbaijani politician believes that economic interests should be at the basis of bilateral relations. "Of all CIS countries we have the deepest integration. Economic ties should be strengthened but for this the war must be stopped," Rasul Guliyev noted.

Nagorno-Karabakh Settlement Plan To Be Modified

LD2504181694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1703 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Following the talks between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Chairman of the Azeri parliament Rasul Guliyev in Moscow on Monday the two sides agreed to modify the Russian plan for the settlement of the Karabakh conflict. This was stated to INTERFAX by Guliyev after a one and a half hour-long conversation with Kozyrev, most of which was face to face.

Asked by INTERFAX correspondent whether Azerbaijan's attitude to the Russian settlement plan changed after the meeting, Guliyev said: "I have always had a positive attitude to this plan. I have always supported Russia's peacekeeping efforts. Another problem is that the plan should take into account the methods of liberating the seized Azeri territories." According to Guliyev, Kozyrev agreed with his arguments.

Guliyev also said that he had not discussed with Kozyrev the timetable and all the technical aspects of the Russian plan. "These issues will be handled by the special envoy of the Russian president, special ambassador Vladimir Kazimirov and the Azeri Foreign Ministry," the speaker of the Azeri parliament said.

In turn, ambassador Kazimirov told INTERFAX that "the introduction of modifications to the Russian plan for the settlement of the conflict is continuing on a constant basis." "This is...a natural course (for such negotiations), so there is nothing extraordinary in Azerbaijan's position on this issue," the Russian diplomat said.

Azerbaijan Delegation Criticizes Peace Plan

LD2604102594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1007 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS— An Azerbaijani delegation, led by Parliament Speaker Rasul Guliyev, criticised a draft Russian peace plan for Karabakh during a meeting with Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the State Duma Committee for International Affairs.

The delegation's opinion is that this "starting document" infringes the national interests of Azerbaijan. if this plan is adopted as a basis, they argue, the republic would lose control over some more of its territories.

The Azerbaijani side expressed bewilderment over the suggested establishment of a number of checkpoints in now non-occupied lands and the zone of combat operations. Similar unacceptable proposals, they assert, are also envisaged for railway sections linking Azerbaijan with Armenia and located far away from the conflict zone.

The Azerbaijani parliamentarians are particularly concerned over issues related to the return of tens of thousands of Azerbaijani refugees to Nagorno-Karabakh, which did not find reflection in the new Russian initiatives.

While coming out in favour of an immediate cessation of fire and hostilities, they nevertheless believe that talks on a settlement of the conflict should be equal and fair.

Lukin's opinion is that the problem is that it is essential to cease fire to resolve the conflict but this does not at all mean that thereby someone demands the Azerbaijani side's recognition that the Russia-suggested plan is ideal and fair in every respect. There are no ideal documents in the world except the holy scriptures and the Koran, Lukin remarked.

The State Duma committee chairman is convinced that following a ceasefire it is necessary to sit down at the negotiating table to discuss all contenctions aspects to reflected in the Russian plan concerning in particular the delimitaiton of the conflicting forces and the forthcoming signing of an agreement on the cessation of hostilities.

As far as occupied Azerbaijani territories are concerned, they are to be vacated within 40 days in accordance with the suggested time-table, it was stated during the meeting.

Lukin said the Russian proposals are of benefit to the Azerbaijani side. These are not just Russian initiatives. They have been elaborated in conjunction with the conference on security and cooperation in Europe. It is difficult to resolve otherwise the problems that have piled up over the years, Lukin emphasised.

The development and deepening of economic departments between Russia and Azerbaijan depend in many respects on the cessation of military operations in the region, speakers said during the meeting.

On Tuesday the Azerbaijani MPs also met with representatives from various factions of deputies in Russia's State Duma. They are expected to meet with Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev on Tuesday afternoon.

Azerbaijan Official Concerned With Border Issues

LD2604083794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0752 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS—Azerbaijan wants to have "transparent" borders with Russia and is concerned over border posts which are now being constructed on the frontier between the two former Soviet republics.

The concern was voiced by Azerbaijani parliament speaker Rasul Guliyev who had a meeting with Russian State Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin on Tuesday.

Guliyev recalled that earlier it had been planned to create a free trade zone on the Russian-Azerbaijani border.

The speaker also called for a greater Russian role in ending the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. He said much in this respect depends on the Russian peace-keeping efforts.

"We greatly want that Russia says its important word in this respect", Guliyev stressed.

Political stabilisation in both countries can be promoted through better economic ties, according to him. "We count on the understanding of Russian partners" in this respect, he added.

Further Reportage on Israeli Premier's Visit

Rabin Meets With Kozyrev

LD2604110594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1022 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—A meeting took place today at the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs' building between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is in the capital on an official visit, and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Speaking to Russian and foreign journalists after the meeting, Andrey Kozyrev stressed that the conversation between the high-ranking guest from Israel and Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin which took place earlier covered a great many topics and touched on all aspects of bilateral relations and of the problems of a Near East settlement. "We can state that our relations are improving," the minister said. "They are developing in a positive, specific way both with regard the former and the latter range of issues. Russia has serious and long-term interests in the Near East; they spring from full-scale cooperation and partnership with Israel and the Arab states, and from providing maximum assistance to the Near East peace process as a co-sponsor of it."

Summing up the results of the meetings already held, Yitzhaq Rabin noted that during the meetings he understood Russia's striving to continue assisting the establishment of peace and security in the Near East. Russia and the United States are helping the sides at the talks when it is requested of them, he pointed out. The Palestinians would like Moscow to help them in attaining certain aims, and we view this with understanding.

The Israeli head of government spoke of the desire to develop broad contacts with Russia, particularly because they have been frozen for the last four decades. "Therefore, cooperation needs to be started virtually from scratch and not only in the areas on which agreements were signed yesterday," he said. He said that he has invited Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and also the speakers of both houses of the Russian parliament to visit Israel because "the bilateral dialogue should take place at the highest level."

Yitzhaq Rabin said that he expressed profound gratitude to Boris Yeltsin for the fact that Russia granted its Jewish citizens the right to emigrate. "In all my meetings," he said, "I stressed that outbreaks of nationalism, neofascism, and neonazism can be seen in many countries. A careful watch must be kept on these processes." The prime minister also noted Russia's desire to assist in the release of Israeli prisoners-of-war seized at various times by the Arab side, and greeted with satisfaction Andrey Kozyrev's statement that Oleg Soskovets, a first deputy chairman of the Russian Government, who is visiting Syria, will raise this problem in talks with Syrian officials.

Shumeyko Receives Rabin

LD2504193994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1703 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] On Monday the speaker of the Russian Council of the Federation Vladimir Shumeyko received the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. According to the press center of the upper house of parliament bilateral relations, in particular the strengthening of ties between parliaments, were discussed. The Israeli leader invited the speaker for an official visit to his country.

The two sides also discussed the Mideastern settlement because Russia is a co-chairman of the peace talks. Rabin expressed confidence that Russia can play a more active role in the process.

According to a source in the Council of the Federation, "the question of Zhirinovskiy" was raised during Rabin's Monday meetings in Moscow.

Rabin Praises Russia's Peace Efforts

LD2504180494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1703 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] At their meeting in the Russian State Duma Monday, Russian Parliamentary Speaker Ivan Rybkin and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin discussed the peace process in the Middle East.

The State Duma press office said Rybkin had informed the Israeli prime minister of Russia's sincere intention to achieve a political settlement in the Middle East. "Our country was among those who backed the creation of the independent Israeli state, and today we will be consistent in the development of cooperation," he was quoted as saying.

Rabin pointed out Russia's interest in and responsibility for the settlement as a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process. He hoped that the first part of P.L.O.-Israeli agreements concerning Palestinian self-rule would be accomplished within two or three weeks. "We want peace in the Middle East, and I think Russia's interests correspond to ours," Rabin pointed out.

The Israeli prime minister said he highly praised Russia's efforts intended for the settlement of the Middle East conflict.

The chairman of the State Duma committee for international affairs, Vladimir Lukin, said Rabin informed Rybkin of the creation of a Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho pointing out possible economic and financial difficulties. Rabin said he was concerned over the future of Israeli nationals staying within the autonomy. He added that the Israeli leadership would ensure the region's external defense, while its internal autonomy would be quite sufficient.

In the course of the meeting, the two sides expressed their dissatisfaction with the volume of Russian-Israeli trade, amounting to as little as $170 Mn at the moment, Lukin said.

The meeting also touched on expansion of bilateral ties in various fields taking into account that about 800,000 former Soviet and Russian citizens are residing in Israel.

During the meeting, Rybkin said he feared increasing nationalist and pro-Fascist tendencies in Russian society. In an answer to Rabin's questions, Rybkin referred to the fact that "such tendencies have always been in Russia" and that "one twentieth of society in any village or city preached exotic views of similar kind." At the same time, Rybkin said the State Duma was preparing hearings of the issue.

After the meeting, the Israeli prime minister told journalists that he had invited Rybkin to visit Jerusalem on behalf of the chairman of the Israeli parliament. For his part, Rybkin invited a delegation from the Israeli parliament to Moscow, Rabin said.

Yeltsin, Rabin Meeting Begins

LD2604081994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0738 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS—A meeting between President Boris Yeltsin and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has begun in the Kremlin.

In his opening remarks, Yeltsin said he was "glad to greet the prime minister on the first visit to Russia". He voiced satisfaction with the fact that the Israeli premier had come to Russia for a visit.

Yeltsin pointed out that there had been various periods in the history of bilateral relations: a deterioration of relations. At the same time the president said there had been also positive aspects, by relying on which "we can actively develop bilateral relations."

Rabin-Yeltsin Meeting 'Warm'

TA2604105094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin conferred in Moscow with President Yeltsin for one hour, and Israeli sources said it was a warm and good meeting. President Yeltsin and his foreign minister told Rabin that Russia's deputy prime minister is now visiting Damascus and will take up the issue of Israeli POW's and MIA's. He was also instructed to promote the negotiations between Israel and Syria.

President Yeltsin stressed to the prime minister that Russia will not provide Syria with new military equipment, only spare parts. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that both men mentioned the danger of Islamic extremism. President Yeltsin said that this extremist movement is a danger to Russia and that his government is trying to build a belt to keep Islamic extremism away from the republics bordering on Iran.

Our correspondent notes that the Russians are pressing the Israeli delegation to sign a trade agreement. Israel has several reservations about clauses in the proposals, but the agreement might still be signed.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 26 April, in a similar report by Qobi Meydan, adds the following recorded remarks by Rabin following his meeting with Yeltsin: "I understood from the meeting with the president, the prime minister, and the foreign minister that Russia, unlike in the past, is interested in assuring progress in peace, security, and stability in the Middle East, and perhaps not only in the Middle East. From my viewpoint as an Israeli, however, that was the main issue I wanted to understand about the Russian position. Russia, together with the United States, will continue to act as cosponsor of the peace negotiations with our three neighboring Arab states and with the Palestinians."]

Statement on Yeltsin-Rabin Talks

LD2604122694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1150 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 26 Apr—The press service of the president of the Russian Federation has issued the following statement:

"In the Kremlin today B.N. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, received Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister of the State of Israel, who is paying an official visit to Russia. During the talks the sides discussed the situation in the Near East, the state of bilateral relations, and prospects for their development.

"During the discussion of the Near East peace process B.N. Yeltsin stressed that Russia will continue to play an active part in Near East affairs, in the interests of achieving practical results in the peace process as soon as possible and creating a zone of good-neighborliness and stability in the vicinity of its southern borders.

"Y. Rabin expressed gratitude for Moscow's energetic efforts to keep the Arab-Israeli talks moving forward and stressed Israel's interest in the development of broad cooperation with Russia in regional and international affairs.

"During the talks the two sides gave a positive assessment of Russian-Israeli relations. It was noted that the signing of a number of important intergovernmental documents during the current visit created a solid basis for their further development. Both sides expressed interest in effective use of the potential for cooperation in trade, economic, scientific, technical, cultural and other spheres."

Discussions With Syria on Cooperation, Debt Issue

LD2504210694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2042 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Damascus April 26 TASS—The first round of the Russian-Syrian talks was held between First Russian Vice-Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, who arrived in Syria on Monday on an official visit, and Syrian Vice-Prime Minister of Economic Affairs Salim Yasin.

The ministers had a closed door meeting. But sources in the Russian delegation told ITAR-TASS that during the talks attention was focussed on questions concerning political, trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. According to the Russian side, the questions do not conform to the interests of the two states [as received]. Problems of military and technical cooperation were also touched upon during the negotiations.

Soskovets called on the Syrian side to "constructive cooperation", and also expressed readiness to "adopt specific decisions" during his three-day visit. In this context, he offered to form three working groups. The first one to deal with questions concerning mutual obligations, the second to resolve econimic problems, and the third to deal with problems of arms and special technologies. The first two groups from the Russian side will be led by Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Oleg Davydov, and the third by Chairman of the Russian Committee for Defence Industry Viktor Glukhikh and the Russian Defence Industry Committee Chairman Viktor Samoylov.

At the end of the talks Russian State Industry Committee Chairman Igor Suchkov told ITAR-TASS that the delicate question of Syria's debts was also touched upon during the talks. Till date it amounts to about 10 billion U.S. dollars. In this connection, he expressed assumption that if the Russian side "returns at least 20 per cent of the debts in the form of goods and simply in cash, then it will be equivalent to those expenses which we have borne."

The second round of the Russian-Syrian talks will be held on Tuesday.

Russia Seeks 'Regular Contacts' With WEU

LD2504154594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1301 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By diplomatic correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Russia is interested in regular contacts with the West-European Union (WEU). The meeting between Russia's Foreign Minister, Andrey Kozyrev, and the WEU Secretary General, Willem van Ekkelen, planned for Monday should be viewed in precisely this context, the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department for European Cooperation, Yuriy Ushakov, told Interfax.

According to him, the WEU is beginning to play a more active role in European affairs. "We would like to synchronize the pace of our cooperation with the WEU with the development of our interaction with the European Union in the economic and political areas," the diplomat said.

Until recently the WEU did not play a noticeable role in European affairs, "because it was on the brink of death", he said. "The European Union reanimated that organization, when it took its decision on greater interaction with the WEU in Maastricht. So life itself has forced us to raise the level of relations with the WEU and develop them more extensively," Ushakov concluded.

Kozyrev, Panamanian Counterpart Sign Declaration

LD2504140694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1139 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Golubov]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—The negotiations between the Russian and Panamanian foreign ministers, Andrey Kozyrev and Jose Raul Mulino, ended at the Russian Foreign Ministry on Monday with the signing of the declaration on the principles of mutual relations and cooperation between Russia and Panama. "The declaration is the first document laying down the foundation for our relations", Kozyrev said after the signing of the declaration. "We have agreed to transform the consulates-general into embassies so that Russia and Panama should have full-scale diplomatic relations". He said Russia closely follows developments in Panama. "We have a large interest in economic relations with that Latin American country," Kozyrev said.

Kozyrev noted that Russia welcomes Panama's role in the development of the peace process in Central America. On its part, Russia is vigorously participating in the Central American settlement the beginning to which was put by the negotiations on the Panamanian island Contadora back in 1983.

In his turn, the Panamanian foreign minister expressed confidence in the development of Panamanian-Russian contacts.

Jose Raul Mulino is in Russia on an official four-day visit, the first one since the two countries established diplomatic relations in March 1991.

Official Reports Relations With China Improving

LD2504125694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1044 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Russian-Chinese ties are evolving in quality from relations between neighbors to bilateral partnership. This was declared at Duma hearings on bilateral ties by Aleksandr Panov, a deputy Russian foreign minister.

In his words, the main stress in relations between the two countries is laid on their closer commercial ties. Last year's bilateral trade totalled 7.2 billion dollars, a 23 percent rise since 1992. That put Russia third among China's trade partners.

Panov argues that since Russia's barter trade is now obviously obsolete, priority should go to joint ventures and investment.

On the problem of border demarcation with China, Panov noted that the agreement signed between USSR and China on May 16, 1991, took effect after its ratification by the former Supreme Soviet on February 13, 1992. He stressed that for the first time ever, a 4,300-kilometer-long eastern border between Russia and China had been determined with 3,700 kilometers of this stretch passing along the Amur, Ussuri, and Argun rivers.

He explained that the issue remained open on three islands—the Bolshoy Ussuri and Tarabarov islands near Khabarovsk and the Bolshoy Island in the upper flows of the Argun river. Negotiations continue on the latter.

As for the western frontier with China (ie. west of Mongolia), stretching for 55 kilometers, the current talks with a joint delegation from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan have not revealed any differences, Panov declared.

Visa Regulations Result in PRC Trade Decline

PM2504085194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Apr 94 p 3

[Vladimir Skosyrev report: "Chinese 'Commuters' Find It Difficult To Obtain Russian Visa"]

[Text] Beijing—The volume of Russian-Chinese trade has started to fall off in recent months. In the opinion of Wang Zongzhang, vice governor of Heilongjiang Province, which borders Russia, restrictions on the entry of Chinese businessmen introduced at the end of February 1994 are the cause of this reduction in trade turnover.

Whereas previously Chinese citizens could, after paying a small sum to the state, acquire official so-called general-purpose passports and cross the Russian border without hindrance, a new agreement whereby they are required to have visas has now come into effect.

The former liberal system of registration afforded not just entrepreneurs but also small-time speculators and criminals the opportunity to get into Russia and stay there for an indefinite period. Now the invitations on which people come to our country from the PRC are carefully checked.

The falloff in trade is the other side of the coin. Russian-Chinese trade exchange has relied to a significant extent hitherto not on major firms but on "pedlars," who bring all their goods with them. As soon as the number of such traders declined, the volume of trade dropped.

A Russian expert, in private conversation with me, said that this might be not so bad. Too much of what was brought here was plain junk. In his opinion, the situation could change for the better thanks to the fact that Russia and China have agreed to certify goods according to standards accepted in Russia.

These duties will be assumed on the Chinese side by the Industrial Inspection Service for Import-Export Goods. Liu Baoyi, deputy general director of the inspection service, says that the arrangements whereby Chinese foodstuffs, electronics, and machines, items on which people's health and safety directly depend, receive an

expert quality certificate will be introduced before this year is out. Quality control will gradually be applied to other goods.

Joint Commission Verifying Border With Mongolia

PM2504100994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Apr 94 First Edition p 3

[Gennadiy Gypylov report: "Herds Being Rustled From Across the Border"]

[Text] Ulan-Ude—A mixed commission on border issues is now working along the Russian-Mongolian state border which is more than 3,000 km in length. Immediately rumors started: There are disputed sectors. Even the press has divulged this.

"Mongolia and Russia recognize the inviolability of the existing borders," J. Choynhor, Mongolian deputy minister of foreign relations, was forced to state in the government newspaper ARDYN ERH. The present commission's cochairman, N. Pavlov, explained that "a planned verification is in progress which is stipulated under the treaty on friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries. Neither of us have any territorial claims toward each other." The inspection is not of a political nature. Nevertheless, there is disquiet. Especially in the area of Tuva.

The inhabitants of the border regions of Tuva and Mongolia have the same attitude toward the striped border posts as to a telegraph pole. They simply cross the border at any time and steal each other's cows, horses, and sheep. At times they they set fire to yurts, brawl, and when sorting out their differences go for their knives and rifles. Recently, Major General A. Kochetov, deputy commander of the Transbaykal Border District's forces, visited this area. He ordered the homeland's sentries to strengthen their combat training. As soon as he had left, a herd of cows was rustled from beside the Shara-Suorata border post. But later Tuvinian shepherds crossed over, killed some Mongolians, and seized some horses. The guerrilla war in the Eastern Sayan Mountains continues.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Meets Duma Faction Leaders on Accord

LD2204172394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1415 GMT 22 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 78 (568): Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] On Friday afternoon President Boris Yeltsin met with leaders of the State Duma factions. The meeting focused on a draft agreement on civil accord. The new document which is in essence a reviewed variant of the draft was discussed the day earlier by the State Duma. The opinions of the leaders of the factions differed. Leaders of agrarians, communists, liberal democrats stated their negative attitude to the draft. These factions control more than one third of deputy mandates. The document was also criticized by representatives of the factions Yabloko, New Regional Policy and Russian Democratic Party. However, they noted that the final position on this issue will be determined by the factions later.

The draft agreement on civil accord was unconditionally supported by representatives of the factions Russia's Choice, the Russian Unity and Accord Party and Russia's Women.

Summarizing the results of hearings, speaker of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin stated that "he was absolutely not disappointed" with the discussion. Speaking to journalists he pointed out that deputies' speeches were "adequate to what is happening in the country."

Rybkin considers that it is far from certain that political parties at their conferences, plenums and congresses scheduled for this weekend would support positions of their parliamentary factions which spoke against signing the civil accord agreement. IF Note: According to the presidential plan, the original formula for signing the document on April 28 is as follows: the agreement should be signed by the president, chairmen of the parliament's chambers, prime minister, heads of the federation's subjects, and plenipotentiary representatives of political parties represented in the State Duma, the Public Chamber of the president, trade unions, "and after that the agreement should be opened for the signing by other sides."

In this connection, experts indicate a considerable probability that next Thursday the signing ceremony will be held without representatives of most major parties represented in the Duma. Some experts do not rule out that among participants in this solemn ceremony there will be no the speaker of the lower chamber. According to their forecasts, that may happen if deputies, in response to the LDP leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, refuse to authorize the speaker with signing the agreement.

Duma Factions Ready To Sign Civic Accord

LD2504124894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1044 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] The leaders of four of the nine Russian Duma factions are ready to sign the Civic Accord. They are Yegor Gaydar (Russia's Choice), Sergey Shakhray (Unity and Concord Party), Nikolay Travkin (Democratic Party), and Ekaterina Lakhova (Russia's Women).

The document will be signed in the St. George's Hall in the Kremlin on April 28.

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy (Yavlinskiy's faction) and Gennadiy Zyuganov (Communist Party) said they did not intend to sign the accord.

Yavlinskiy told journalists that he has no need to sign an agreement with Gaydar, but he does not want to sign such an accord with Zhirinovskiy.

The Communist Party at an all-Russian conference over the week- end declared that the signing of the document was not meaningful since "sources of confrontation" remain.

The Agrarian Party, led by Mikhail Lapshin, links its signing of the accord with the conclusion of an agreement between the cabinet and farmers on the guaranteed state purchase of crops.

The LDP [Liberal Democratic Party], led by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, is to adopt a decision on Tuesday. Although Zhirinovskiy sets a number of terms (including the resignation of six cabinet ministers), he considers signing the accord possible "as a compromise, enabling further progress."

The New Regional Policy faction, led by Vladimir Medvedev, has so far been undecided since some members have been for and others have been against signing.

Yeltsin's Memorandum on Accord Amended

LD2504182594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1631 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent tamara zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—The memorandum on Civic Peace and Accord was fundamentally amended after Russian President Boris Yeltsin met with leaders from factions in the State Duma and with the heads of Russia's regions, presidential chief-of-staff Sergey Filatov told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

He reported that the ban on proposing constitutional amendments which could destabilize the situation in society was removed. The text now states that the signatories agree to prepare constitutional amendments "on the basis of agreement."

In addition, the working group which prepared the memorandum removed the thesis about the obligation of

bringing regional constitutions into line with the federal one, after taking into account the objections of local leaders. "That task will be resolved outside of the memorandum," Filatov said. Also in accordance with regional desires, the document calls for the proper implementation of the law on rehabilitating small nationalities which were persecuted during Stalinist rule.

The leaders of the agrarian and communist parties were likewise listened to; the memorandum now states that the signatories promise to work towards decreasing the income difference between the wealthy and poor.

ITAR-TASS asked Filatov if he thought the president did the right thing in canceling his decree depriving the former deputies which participated in the anti-Yeltsin events of October 3 and 4 of monetary compensation and housing, considering that leader of the front of national salvation Ilya Konstantinov is continuing to call for early presidential elections. In response, filatov explained that the cancellation of that decree did not mean those deputies who were "black-listed" would receive their housing for free. "Let them buy it at its market price," he said.

The chief-of-staff noted that Yeltsin did not count on the support of extremist organisations for the memorandum on accord and did not invite them to sign it. Concerning the refusal of the leader of the liberal "Yabloko" fraction, Grigory Yavlinsky, to participate in the agreement process, Filatov commented that "the voters are hardly likely to support him in that refusal."

Outline of Civic Accord Amendments

LD2504161494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] A copy of the now-amended draft of a civic accord for Russia has been made available to INTERFAX.

One crucial amendment allows for stabilizing changes to be made in Russia's basic law but as before, the signatories are banned from launching campaigns in favor of an early general election which is not envisaged in the constitution.

One other amendment binds the government to try to narrow the income gap this year.

Unlike the previous version shifting the burden of responsibility for CIS integration and Russia's breakthrough into the world market on the government alone, this is to be shared by the president and two houses of parliament as well.

At the same time, the Federal Assembly is bound to approve this year's budget come what may.

The clause binding the republics and regions to drop any claims for a change in their constitutional standing has been deleted and a new paragraph inserted in the chapter on ethnic relations which outlines mechanisms for implementing the law on the rehabilitation of deported peoples.

The section on ways of implementing the civic accord was largely amended including a new clause saying the president can hold regular meetings with signatories to discuss key issues relating to the enforcement of the accord. Apart from a monitoring function, the conciliatory commission is now vested with powers of permanent coordination.

Parts of the document dealing with its validity term and signing procedure have also been deleted.

Yavlinskiy, Zyuganov on Refusal To Sign Accord

LD2504192294

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1625 GMT on 25 April broadcasts an 8-minute report within the "Details" program, during which Sergey Dorenko speaks to Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, leader of the Yabloko faction, and briefly with Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov, opponents of signing the Public Accord agreement.

Zyuganov lists his reasons for not signing the document, which include the fact that he believes the government has lost the trust of the people and that its social policies have failed. Although many parties and movements have signed agreements, there is no guarantee that these agreements will be implemented, he argues.

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy tells Dorenko that some 7-8 million people voted for him during the elections. He says that his party believes in stability, but does not believe that signing this agreement will lead to stability. On the contrary, he stresses, it will exacerbate the situation in the long term, as it will separate reformers from anti-reformers.

Yavlinskiy says he believes that the agreement should be on more specific issues, such as privatization, social policy, or foreign policy. He expresses his displeasure with the fact that, among the signatories of the document are parties which could not be trusted, such as the Liberal Democratic Party, saying he does not believe their slogans and objectives or their policy, which is fraught with war.

Asked if he felt he would be isolated if he does not sign the document, Yavlinskiy responds that this would not be the case. His party cannot take part in matters which it does not believe in.

Dorenko sums up by saying that some people will be signing the document in order to stress their closeness to the president, and to help influence decision-making. Meanwhile, the non-signatories will continue the struggle out on the streets, Dorenko concludes.

Chernomyrdin on Social Policy, Employment

PM2504134394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Viktor Chernomyrdin: 'Taxes Should Not Be Detrimental to the Citizens.' Government Approves Basic Spheres of Social Policy for 1994"]

[Text] The Russian Government has determined "the stabilization of the living standard of Russian Federation citizens, with its subsequent rise as the economy develops" as the target of its social policy for 1994. This target has been drawn up in a document adopted 21 April at a sitting of the Russian Federation Government Presidium—Main Guidelines of the Russian Federation Government's Social Policy for 1994.

The document stresses that the "Russian Federation Government proceeds on the premise that a fruitful and considered social policy is a vital condition for continuing reforms, strengthening their social base, and improving the sociopolitical situation in the country."

The following main guidelines of social policy for 1994 are envisaged: the creation of economic and legal conditions to give an incentive to the active, able-bodied section of society to ensure its own prosperity through highly productive work; support for optimum correlations between the income of the active part of the population and disabled citizens; the provision of basic social guarantees; and the prevention of mass unemployment.

In order to put these aims into effect in 1994, the government intends to concentrate its efforts on preventing a reduction in the population's real monetary income, ensuring an equitable balance of economic interests and material possibilities of hired workers, entrepreneurs, and disabled citizens...

Summing up the discussion, Viktor Chernomyrdin noted that the reform of taxation, to which he attaches prime significance, should be the key element in conducting policy in the social sphere. According to him, taxes "should not be detrimental to the citizens."

The government Presidium also examined the draft federal program for assisting with job placements for the population in 1994, presented by the Federal Employment Service.

Presenting the draft program, Fedor Prokopov, chief of the Federal Employment Service, noted that its activity will mainly extend to able-bodied citizens who have work, but are at risk of losing it, as well as to those who are unemployed and are registered at the organs of the state employment service.

Potential "partial" unemployment during 1994 is put at between 5 million and 8 million people. Fedor Prokopov also predicts that the risk of citizens' losing their jobs will be increased—the total number of workers who will be released from their jobs in 1994 will be 2.4-3.8 million. The work force supply on the labor market will also grow; the number of citizens who do not have work or have lost it, and are seeking work, will exceed 12 million people.

In the sphere of economic support for employment, the government intends to curb the cutback of economically expedient posts and those posts which are promising for the long term, and promote the growth of investment activity which creates new posts.

According to Viktor Chernomyrdin, job-placement measures for graduates of schools and higher educational establishments have been insufficiently thought through in the program, and investment programs in whose implementation the unemployed could be involved fully or partially have not been taken into consideration. A government commission headed by Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov has been created for further work on the federal program.

Shokhin New Chairman of Coal Regions Commission

PM2504160494 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Apr 94 First Edition p 5

[Text of Russian Federation Government Decree no. 328, signed by V. Chernomyrdin, Chairman of the Russian Federation Government, in Moscow on 15 April 1994: "On the Chairman of the Interdepartmental Commission on the Socioeconomic Problems of the Coal Mining Regions"]

[Text] The Government of the Russian Federation decrees:

1. As an amendment to paragraph five of the Statute on the Interdepartmental Commission on the Socioeconomic Problems of the Coal Mining Regions approved by decree no. 1249 of the Council of Ministers-Government of the Russian Federation of 30 November 1993 "On approving the Statute on the Interdepartmental Commission on the Socioeconomic Problems of the Coal Mining Regions and the Composition of that Commission" (SOBRANIYE AKTOV PREZIDENTA I PRAVITELTSVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1993, no. 50, p. 4870), to establish that the Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation Government is chairman of the aforementioned Commission.

2. To appoint A.N. Shokhin, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, chairman of the Interdepartmental Commission on the Socioeconomic Problems of the Coal Mining Regions and to relieve Ye.T. Gaydar of those duties.

3. To instruct A.N. Shokhin to present to the Government of the Russian Federation proposals on changes to the composition of the aforementioned Commission.
[signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation.

Yeltsin Gives Address on Radiation Victims Day

LD2504160594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1255 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent; item embargoed until 0000 GMT 26 April 1994]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Apr—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has said that "it is our duty do everything to rid the world of radiation calamities for ever."

In an address to the citizens of Russia in connection with the day of memory for those who have perished in radiation disasters, the president notes that recently the state has taken a number of steps to strengthen the social protection of people who have suffered from radiation.

"I believe that it is the duty of the state to pay particular attention to these people and to give them social support and protection. The problems of radioactive pollution should become a priority in the affairs of the federal structures and executive power bodies of the components of the Federation," he stresses.

Edict Ratifies Group of Experts' Statute

PM2504131194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Apr 94 First Edition p 5

[Edict No. 787 of the President of the Russian Federation "On the Group of Experts of the President of the Russian Federation," signed by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and dated Moscow, The Kremlin, 15 April 1994, with appended "Statutes on the Group of Experts of the President of the Russian Federation"]

[Text] With the aim of improving the day-to-day analysis of information and expert backup services provided for the activity of the president of the Russian Federation I resolve:

1. To ratify the appended Statute on the Group of Experts of the President of the Russian Federation.

2. To establish the permanent staff strength of the group of experts at eight.

3. The leader of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation is to ratify the composition of the Group of Experts of the President of the Russian Federation.

4. To deem invalid Paragraph 5 of edict No. 273 of the president of the Russian Federation "On Improving the Backup System for the Activity of the President of the Russian Federation," dated 22 February 1993 (SOBRANIYE AKTOV PREZIDENTA I PRAVITELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII [Collected Acts of the President and Government of the Russian Federation] No. 9, 1993, p 735).

5. This edict comes into force from the moment of its signature. txt2

[signed] Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation txt2
[dated] Moscow, The Kremlin, 15 April 1994

Statute of the Group of Experts of the President of the Russian Federation

I. General Provisions

1. The Group of Experts of the President of the Russian President (hereinafter the Group of Experts) is a subunit of the Russian Federation Presidential Aides Service.

2. The Russian Federation Constitution and laws, the edicts and directives of the president of the Russian Federation, and the present statutes form the legal basis of the activity of the Group of Experts.

II. Tasks of the Group of Experts

3. The Group of Experts:

performs day-to-day expert appraisal of information and material on questions relating to the socioeconomic development of the Russian Federation received by the president of the Russian Federation;

prepares proposals on the implementation of decisions of the president of the Russian Federation in the sphere of economic policy;

prepares prompt evaluative forecasts of the consequences of implementing decisions made by organs of legislative and executive power in the socioeconomic sphere;

prepares and submits to the president of the Russian Federation reports and analytical and information memorandums on questions relating to the socioeconomic development of the Russian Federation which require prompt examination;

takes part on the instructions of the president of the Russian Federation and the first assistant [pervyy pomoshchnik] of the president of the Russian Federation in the preparation of draft statutory acts of the president of the Russian Federation on socioeconomic problems.

III. Organization of the Activity of the Group of Experts

4. The leader of the Group of Experts is appointed to and dismissed from his post by the president of the Russian Federation.

5. The leader of the Group of Experts:

submits the composition of the Group of Experts to the leader of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation for his ratification;

submits proposals pertaining to the appointment to and dismissal from the post of staffers of the Group of Experts to the leader of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation;

sets his deputy's duties;

determines the tasks and functions of staffers of the Group of Experts;

sets the rules governing the internal arrangements of the Group of Experts in accordance with the rules governing the internal arrangements of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation;

has the right to sign official documentation which falls within the Group of Experts' competence;

has the right to attend sessions of the Government of the Russian Federation, the Presidium of the Government of the Russian Federation, the Presidential Council, and other organs formed by the president of the Russian Federation and to study the stenographic transcripts and minutes of sessions.

IV. Backup for the Activity of the Group of Experts

6. In order to perform the tasks assigned to it the Group of Experts has the right:

to request and receive in accordance with established procedure relevant information of a socioeconomic nature and statistics, including secret data, from state and other organs, enterprises, establishments, and organizations;

to request and receive the decisions of federal organs of state and executive power, including secret decisions;

to plan and carry out the assignments of staffers of the Group of Experts in accordance with established procedure;

to utilize the data banks of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation and the data banks of federal organs of executive power and the organs of executive power of components of the Russian Federation in accordance with established procedure;

to utilize state, including government, communications systems;

to recruit for its activity on a contractual basis scientific establishments and individual scientists and specialists working in state and other organs, enterprises, establishments, or organizations and to set up consultation groups in specific areas.

7. The leader of the Group of Experts is on a par—in terms of the level of labor remuneration and social, consumer, transport, and medical services—with the leader of the Analytical Center of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation.

8. The material, technical, information, and transport backup for the Group of Experts and the social, consumer, and medical services for its staffers are provided by the appropriate structural subunits of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation.

Yeltsin Makes Pitch for 2002 Winter Olympics

LD2504175994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1717 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—"Russia rightfully claims to host the 2002 Winter Olympics," said Russian President Boris Yeltsin at a ceremony of awarding Russian olympians in Moscow on Monday.

As is known, Russian southern resort of Sochi competes for the right to host the 2002 Winter Olympics.

"The successful performance of Russian national team at the (Lillehammer) Winter Olympics was a surprize for many foreign observers and athletes," he noted.

"The once powerful Soviet team had managed only once to win more medals than the present-day Russian team (in the Winter Olympics)," he remarked.

"The (1994) Winter Olympics have shown that Russia's athletes are in the vanguard of the world's top-level sport," President Yeltsin emphasized.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Ivan Rybkin, chairman of State Duma, Russian parliament's lower house, were also present at the awarding ceremony.

Government Sets Asides Funds for Defense Enterprises

LD2504192494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1812 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Pressed by the Defense Ministry, the Russian government set aside funds required to reimburse a considerable part of state debts to defense complex enterprises. The money is being deposited in the accounts of about 700 major and medium enterprises granted defense orders for 1994, according to a statement by the ministry's press and information department published in Moscow Monday.

Yeltsin Approves Ecological Safety Commission

LD2504194194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] The press service of the Russian president reports that Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree approving the composition of an interdepartmental commission for ecological safety, which will be part of the Security Council. (Aleksey Yablokov) has been appointed as chairman of the commission. The commission includes heads of a number of federal ministries and departments, including representatives from the weather and environmental monitoring services.

Filippov Resignation Expected After Investigation

MK2604091094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 2

[Andrey Lekant report in the "Counterattack" column: "Petr Filippov Is Awaiting Resignation"]

[Text] Petr Filippov, former chairman of the Supreme Soviet's Privatization Subcommittee, is to face an official investigation initiated by presidential administration chief Sergey Filatov. Administration officials reported that Mr. Filippov is likely soon to resign from the post of chief of the presidential administration's Information Support Directorate.

As SEGODNYA has learned, the reason for the inquiry was the analytical materials worked out under Filippov's supervision, containing recommendations for reorganizing large agricultural enterprises and supporting collective peasant farms. The authors of the memorandum propose the voluntary breakup into smaller units and sale of the land and property of corporatized kolkhozes at internal auctions, and using them to create small—approximately 30 people—peasant farms.

The preparation of corresponding normative documents took two and a half months and was of a planned character. The authors thought that if a decision about a presidential edict or government decree was adopted on this subject, they could be released this fall. As is apparent from the content of these documents, they are of a purely recommendatory character and could be addressed only to two persons: presidential administration chief Sergey Filatov and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The latter, however, deemed it necessary to transfer them to Agriculture Minister Khlystun, who in his turn forwarded them to Mikhail Lapshin, leader of the Duma's agrarian faction. From that point on the documents finally lost their confidential character, were duplicated and circulated to "all rural councils."

The agriculture generals assessed the recommendatory service memoranda as guidance for action. According to some Directorate officers, they demanded explanations from the president and the prime minister, and from Sergey Filatov, an official investigation and punishment of the guilty.

The outcome of the battle between the agrarian lobby and Petr Filippov arouses practically no doubt in Staraya Ploshchad.

Drugs Cartels 'Will Never Break Into' Russian Market

PM2504152394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Apr 94 p 4

[Vitaliy Tyshkevich article: "Their Drugs Barons Will Not Turn Up in the Russian Market. We Have Enough of Our Own"—from the "Retsept" section]

[Text] We have recently seen in the mass media increasingly frequent forecasts that Russia is destined to turn more or less into an international market for the sale of drugs in the near future. How accurate is this claim? Let us turn for comment to criminal specialists engaged in this area and doctors specializing in drug abuse, and also see what some foreign publications have to say.

In the opinion of experts from the Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Department for Struggle Against the Spread of Drugs, the appearance of international criminal syndicates in our country's market in the near future is impossible for two reasons. First, the prices for the imported "goods" are so high that they will be beyond the domestic "consumer's" reach: For example, a gram of cocaine costs about $100. Second, Russia and the CIS countries are themselves capable of becoming vendors of the raw materials for drugs production and are already doing so: For example, Chu and Amur hemp, from which hashish is made, differs very little in its properties from the equivalent commodity which the international cartels are buying up in the countries of the "golden triangle."

Apart from this, Russian drugs dealers are not allowing their foreign competitors to penetrate their market: After all, drug dealing is becoming one of the most profitable businesses, ranking second after arms dealing. What is more, we are talking not just about natural substances but also about synthetic drugs used in medicine.

There are quite a few confirmations of this. You only have to recall the "Olaynfarm" [name as transliterated] affair which caused a sensation some time ago. Invar Penke [name as transliterated], director of the collapsed pharmaceutical giant, began to produce amphetamine, a stimulant which is classified as a narcotic all over the world. Then the unlicensed sale of this drug to Germany began. As a result Penke was arrested by Interpol's German agency. A second example is this: A St. Petersburg medicinal compounds plant mastered the industrial production of ephedrine—a drug for asthmatics from which you can make a cheap narcotic, the so-called "dzhef" [an ephedrine derivative], at home.

The following is a very recent example. Not long ago, in the settlement of Kupavna (Moscow Oblast), the garage of Ivan Tyulyayev, director of the "Akrikhin" Chemical and Pharmaceutical Combine, burned down. Before this, several attacks had been made on his property, and there are always these genuine, imported mafia cars with their zonked young drivers parked outside the plant. Ivan Ivanovich himself stated to the militia on several occasions that he is being threatened and pushed into illegal activities.

All these details were received from the MVD.

But what are Western journalists writing about this matter of concern to us? The following details are to be found in the journal MEDICINE REVIEW. It emerges that cheap and particularly toxic drugs of unknown origin—hallucinogens as a rule—have recently been

appearing on the U.S. and European drugs markets. The number of cases of clinical intoxication has increased with their appearance. The article also presents figures: The number of people poisoned by narcotic substances in the United States rose from 1,234 a month (in 1985) to 10,345 people a month (in 1992 when, it is believed, a massive expansion of the narcotics market began from CIS countries).

But their drug addicts are ultimately their own problem. But to what degree are the rumors about the spread of their opium to our market justified? From a set of figures provided to us by the State Drug-Abuse Center, you can clearly discern the group of users of this potion in this country. On the whole what we have here are examples of multiple drug addiction. Moreover, our drug addicts use substances whose narcotic properties are simply beyond the imagination of people in the West. So the doctors' opinion coincides precisely with that of the law enforcement agencies—the Medellin or any other cartel will never break into the Russian market as a vendor.

No Discussion on Rutskoy as Accord Movement Leader

LD2504161994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] The group seeking to create an Accord for Russia Movement did not discuss whether the former Russian vice-president, Aleksandr Rutskoy, will be the leader of the Movement, one of the Movement organizers, member of the Russian Constitutional Court, Valery Zorkin said Monday. He was speaking in an interview with INTERFAX concerning Rutskoy's Sunday TV interview where the latter said that he was prepared to be the opposition leader.

Zorkin said that while constructive forces have no clear program and no concrete measures to overcome the crisis, it would be absurd to speak about someone coming to save everyone. People should unite and choose their leader themselves, said Zorkin. He believes that the treaty on civic accord should also be based on an initiative from "below".

Speaking about the essence of the treaty, Zorkin said that the document should be based on an agreement on principles of overcoming the crisis. Only then the existing institutes will win the people's confidence. Zorkin said that it was the question of power institutes not of individuals. Certain personal changes in the power structures are possible, he believes.

Zorkin also said that it was not legitimate to raise the question of whether Accord for Russia would sign a treaty on civic accord in the Kremlin on April 28, since the Movement had not yet been created. He said that the constituent conference of the Accord for Russia Movement is scheduled for mid-May.

Russia's Choice Party Gains New Prominent Members

LD2504194294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1750 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Members of the Popular Party Free Russia, formally led by Vasily Lipitsky and informally by Alexander Rutskoy, who left the party after the October events of 1993 in Moscow, will enter the Russia's Choice Party organized by Yegor Gaydar, the former co-chairman of the Popular Party Free Russia Aleksandr Sharavin told Interfax.

He said that in ten districts of Moscow members of the party joined the organizing committees of the Russia's Choice Party, which set the date of its constituent congress for the end of May - beginning of June.

According to Sharavin, the regional organization of the Popular Party Free Russia in Astrakhan, Izhevsk, Severodvinsk, Ulan-Ude, Nizhny Novgorod, Omsk, Tver, Yekaterinburg and other cities supported the idea of their structures' entry into the Gaydar party.

Press secretary of the Russia's Choice faction in the State Duma Anna Tyagunenko told Interfax that Yegor Gaydar has no objections to the shift of former supporters of Aleksandr Rutskoy to the Russia's Choice Party, although, in her words, Gaydar notes a certain awkwardness in the situation.

Democratic Russia Leaders Oppose Accord

LD2504165494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1454 GMT 25 Apr 94

[by ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 25—Co-chairmen of the Democratic Russia Political Movement Lev Ponomarev and Gleb Yakunin sent on Monday an open letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin with a suggestion that he put off the signing of the memorandum on civic peace and accord, which is scheduled for April 28.

The Democratic Russia leaders justified their position by referring to an article published by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy in the liberal daily paper IZVESTIYA. They said the nationalist leader's article contained expansionist desires and anti-constitutional appeals. Expressing their opposition to "civic accord" with Zhirinovskiy, the Democratic Russia leaders said he should either publicly renounce the anti-constitutional appeals or not be allowed to sign the treaty.

Government Said Planning To Fund Newspaper

PM2504130194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 2

[ITAR-TASS report: "SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA Could Receive 4 Billion Rubles From Government"]

[Text] The State Duma Committee for Information Policy and Communications has made a proposal in the draft 1994 Russian Federation budget that 1.5 trillion rubles [R] (of the R2.2 trillion requested) be allocated to the "Ostankino" state television and radio company, that R287 billion be allocated to regional state television and radio studios, and that R176 be allocated to newspapers. This was reported by M. Poltoranin, the committee's leader.

Meanwhile the government has prepared a directive to the Finance Ministry to allocate R4 billion to the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper. This decision was made after a meeting between SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA's chief editor and Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov. The reliable source who reported this recalled that mass publications such as TRUD and LITERATURNAYA GAZETA had been unable to obtain state subsidies.

Yarov Dismisses Report

LD2504194494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1703 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Russian Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov categorically dismissed the April 22 report of the ITAR-TASS news agency that he had allegedly prepared an order for the Finance Ministry to grant 4 billion rubles to the newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, INTERFAX learned from the press service of the Russian government.

"The reliable source referred to by the ITAR-TASS correspondent, is spreading a blunt falsification."

Economic Issues

Yeltsin, Skokov Confer; No State TV Report

MK2604073094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 2

[Arkadiy Nikiforov report in the "Kremlin" column: "Boris Yeltsin Has Met With Yuriy Skokov. Consultations Between the Russian Federation President and the Leader of the Commodity Producers Federation Will Be Regular"]

[Text] On 22 April a meeting took place in the Kremlin between Boris Yeltsin and Yuriy Skokov, which lasted more than an hour.

As NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reported earlier, the Russian Commodity Producers Federation [RCPF], led by Skokov, has worked out a number of proposals aimed at taking immediate measures to salvage domestic industrial and agricultural production. The RCPF initiatives have found a response not only in Russia but also abroad. During Yuriy Skokov's visits to Germany and France representatives of the government and the business community of those countries accepted the RCPF's proposal to conclude agreements with major employers associations in these states. The agreements should become the basis for a system of nongovernment interaction between Russian and foreign manufacturers.

In its report NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA wrote about the message sent by Yuriy Skokov to the president of Russia. In it, the RCPF chairman presented proposals for organizing a system of interaction between the federation and the government to elaborate and implement concrete joint projects. After studying the message, Boris Yeltsin tasked Viktor Chernomyrdin with setting up cooperation with the RCPF in order to overcome the catastrophic production decline and to slow down the growth of unemployment.

In addition to the RCPF's proposals to defend the interests of domestic commodity producers, the meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Yuriy Skokov last Friday also discussed a broad range of socioeconomic problems. Yeltsin related with understanding to Skokov's concern over the position of Russia's commodity producers. Accord was reached about regular consultations between the president of the Russian Federation and the RCPF leader and their collaboration in addressing Russia's economic problems.

It is noteworthy that at the request of Boris Yeltsin's press service the meeting was filmed by a TV crew. Footage of it, however, only appeared in an NTV news program. Neither Ostankino nor Russian TV reported the meeting.

Fedorov Views Central Bank's Future

PM2604090794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 2

[Article by State Duma Deputy Boris Fedorov: "The Central Bank of Russia: What Next?"]

[Text] None of the state's economic institutions today is more important than the Central Bank. Some five years ago hardly anyone knew its chairman's name, whereas now it has become a political office attracting universal attention.

The only question now is: To what extent does the Central Bank perform its functions which, in the conditions of market economy, are always extremely simple—to ensure the stability of the currency and the stability of the banking system. Stability of the currency means low inflation and a stable exchange rate. Stability of the banking system means the absence of defrauding of clients and the stability of banks.

No country in the world has a stable currency with a weak economy. On the other hand, most countries with weak currencies have very weak economies. It is obvious that today we fall within the second group and the length of time we will spend in this group depends largely on the Central Bank.

A sound way of boosting the Central Bank's activeness in this sphere has been devised in New Zealand—the

Central Bank chairman's salary there is linked to the level of inflation. The lower the inflation, the higher the salary; the higher the inflation, the lower the salary. There we have some food for thought.

The Central Bank's independence is a key question. The Germans had a taste of hyperinflation in the wake of two world wars, and no Central Bank is stronger or more independent than Germany's. The independence question was widely discussed in our country in 1989-1990, but independence was in fact replaced by excessive dependence on parliament and—frequently—by irresponsibility. I recently read a report analyzing the link between the level of inflation since the beginning of this century and the Central Bank's status. Thus, we are a unique country where greater independence for the Central Bank means higher inflation.

I am reluctant to draw the conclusion that we have not yet fully experienced the "wonders" of hyperinflation. I am in principle against any form of subordination of the Central Bank to either the government or the parliament. Both are equally bad, politicians should not interfere with professionals provided, of course, that they are professionals and are accurately performing their functions.

In our case it is necessary to change the system of running the Central Bank so as to reduce the likelihood of dangerous and unlawful decisions. On the one hand, there must be a supervisory council—a "political" organ comprising representatives of the banking system, industry, and trade, which would make key decisions of monetary, credit, and banking policy. On the other hand—a board of directors as an organ for daily leadership of the bank's activity which would prepare all basic decisions. Collective and professional leadership should protect the economy against arbitrariness. Such a system exists in all countries in the world.

Furthermore, it is necessary to render banking legislation as detailed as possible, and it must be operating directly, ruling out any free interpretation and precisely defining normatives and their limits, the instruments of policy, and the Central Bank's mutual relations with the government and other institutions of power. Nowadays hardly anyone in the country has any accurate knowledge about questions affecting the lives of each and every one of us.

I fear that many people have an incorrect perception of the idea of a federal reserve system. The specific U.S. system is "federal" on the surface, but the United States does have a unified policy, all decisions are made in Washington and there can be no autonomization. Any experiments with a total restructuring of the banking system can bring more harm than good.

On the other hand, it is time to say honestly that the processes now under way in several republics within Russia are extremely dangerous. The redesignation of the Central Bank's territorial organs as national banks, the adoption of their own banking laws, and the demands for greater autonomy and regionalization of monetary policy—all these are signs of separatism. Therefore, there is perfect justification for creating territorial organs of the Central Bank in economic regions comprising several Federation components. Such organs would exercise greater powers and would be less dependent on local authorities.

Another problem facing the Central Bank is its withdrawal from the sphere of commercial activities. This means liquidating its holdings in former Soviet banks abroad, the Foreign Trade Bank of Russia, the Bank for Labor Savings and Credit to the Population, and the Sovfintrade [expansion unknown]. It is impermissible to mix the functions of banking regulation with direct involvement in business dealings—this creates a conflict of interests. Another aspect of the question is the persistent desire of former Gosbank [USSR State Bank] officials to remain involved in credit facilities for the economy under the cover of conducting operations through commercial banks. I am profoundly convinced that, for as long as central bankers engage in business, they will not tackle monetary and credit policy.

It is obvious that the current law on the Central Bank is outdated and we can no longer remain satisfied with cosmetic amendments to the legislation. A new law on the Central Bank is needed.

Bankers Worried About Threat 'Posed by the State'

PM2504132594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Apr 94 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Which Banker Lacks a Billion?"]

[Text] The Fourth Congress of the Association of Russian Banks concluded its work in Moscow yesterday. Perhaps none of the spheres of the market infrastructure is developing as swiftly as the credit-monetary sphere. There is a total of 2,041 banks in Russia today, with over 4,000 branches. And sizeable funds are in circulation in them—the total assets of commercial banks exceed 110 trillion rubles [R].

However, both the association's President Sergey Yegorov and the bankers from the localities who addressed the congress spoke less about the prosperity of financial affairs, and more, strangely enough, about the threat to them posed by the state. Such as, for example, the recent directive on increasing income tax fivefold in comparison with the first quarter of last year. Thus, we are not far from utter ruin.

Businessmen are also skeptical about the authorities' decision to increase the minimum amount of the authorized capital for new banks to R2 billion. Such money is not available, particularly in the provinces, which is precisely where there is an acute need for the creation of new structures.

Speaking at the congress, First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets announced a project which envisages a significant

increase in banks' contributions to investment purposes. And Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko promised to reduce the discount rate in the near future, although admittedly on certain conditions.

Military Issues

Cosmos-2279 Spacecraft Launched 26 Apr

LD2604042694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0312 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS freelance correspondent Semyon Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Apr—The "Cosmos-2279" spacecraft was launched today from Plesetsk cosmodrome by the Russian military space forces. The launch was carried out at 0500 hours 14 minutes and 15 seconds statutory Moscow time with the help of the "Cosmos 3M" light rocket carrier. ITAR-TASS has learned at the press center of the military forces that the launch, which was carried out for the Russian Defense Ministry, was successful.

The "Cosmos-2279" is the 10th spacecraft launched from Russia's northern cosmodrome since the beginning of 1994.

No Cesium-137 Detected at Radioactive Marine Sites

LD2504174394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1654 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—Preliminary marine pollution measurements taken from the sites of radioactive waste dumping by the former Soviet Union and Japan in the Sea of Japan did not reveal any Caesium-137 radioactive level fluctuations. These preliminary conclusions were reached at the end of the joint Russian-Japanese- South Korean expedition' first stage, which was undertaken with the participation of IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) specailists from March 18 to April 15.

The Russian Navy press centre told ITAR-TASS that the tests were conducted on board the Russian hydrometeorological scientific reasearch ship "Okean" (ocean). The expedition helped obtain information about the real radioactivity and ecological situation in the areas of radioactive waste dumping by the navy of the former Soviet Union and Russia.

Detailed analyses of sea water samples, sea bottom sediments, animal plankton and organisms living on the sea bottom, will be carried out in laboratories of Russia, Japan, South Korea and IAEA and published as a complete report within one year at the end of the expedition.

Security Council on Information Security Concept

MK2604092094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 2

[Dmitriy Volkov report: "Security Council Takes a Closer Look at Information"]

[Text] In its meeting yesterday the Russian Federation Security Council's Interdepartmental Commission on Information Security considered the fundamentals of a concept of the same name. Its authors expect that the information security concept will be finalized by November, but even at this stage they kindly suggested that the press familiarize themselves with its basic provisions.

According to Vladimir Rubanov, deputy secretary of the Security Council, without an "adequate solution" to information problems "it is hard to talk about national security." Among such problems Mr. Rubanov mentioned the exercise of the citizens' right to information. "This problem should be resolved for political reasons" at least because these rights of citizens have been set forth in the Constitution, "but the existing structures cannot ensure them."

Mr. Rubanov said also that for the purpose of protecting Russia's intellectual potential a possibility should finally be given "to registering information as a commodity." Among other things, the draft concept calls for the recognition of information as an object of ownership and its introduction in "economic circulation."

In addition, Mr. Rubanov called for a conception of "protectionism" in the area of production and distribution of information, warning that far from all distributors of information, including a number of firms specializing in data bases, act "in conformity with Russia's vital interests." In other words, the state is seriously concerned by the leakage of formerly secret materials of scientific-technical or economic nature to its "partners," former opponents of the USSR. The Security Council will apparently urge the introduction of licenses and certificates for the distributors of information, particularly exporters.

It seems encouraging that the Security Council, at least the part of its staff that deals with working out the information security concept, thinks it necessary publicly to declare that if citizens are to exercise their constitutional right to information, it requires appropriate legislation, including direct-action laws. Just as important, information has been introduced "in economic circulation" as "a crucial national resource comparable with energy resources" (in Mr. Rubanov's words). Maybe this will correct to some extent the usage of the term "commodity producer," which is currently applied to those who produce "material values," not to designate those who actually manufacture marketable products.

Naturally, the preliminary presentation of the concept has also left numerous questions unanswered. According to Mr. Rubanov, power structures will have an "auxiliary role" to play when the concept and enforceable enactments on its basis are worked out. If this is really so, so modest a role for the special services will be a first, of sorts. Of course, one will be able to find out how "auxiliary" it is only when private and commercial producers and buyers of information face the consequences of this idea in practice.

For the time being, however, materials presented showed the desire to pass "between the Scylla of secrecy and the Charybdis of misappropriating information resources with no holds barred." Since the drafters of the concept concede that it would be more advantageous for the state to establish "a high level of secrecy," the other components of society should evidently champion the "no-holds-barred" approach, so as not to veer off toward Scylla.

Official Calls for General Information Defense System

LD2504180594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1629 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—Russia needs to create a general informational defence system, according to Deputy Secretary of the Russian Security Council Vladimir Rubanov. He stressed to ITAR-TASS that computer crimes themselves are capable of causing as much monetary damage as all the art thefts in the entire world. The most danger is represented by attempts to penetrate the networks controlling energy systems, the production of dangerous substances, and the use and control of troops and weapons, Rubanov said.

Some of the state's top-priority tasks in the information security field concern the defence of personal informational rights and intellectual property, the official said. Special attention should be paid to preventing the distortion, concealment, and destruction of information. Leaks of information representing state secrets must likewise not be tolerated. Adherence to such guidelines is designed to ensure information security in the political, economic, military, and other essential spheres of Russia's activity, Rubanov explained.

Important steps towards the defence of security contained in and transmitted by computers will be personal access devices which identify the user of a computer and the quick-acting algorythyms in the cryptographic programme "electronic signature". If these defence measures are not taken advantage of, computer crimes could block the work of Russia's banking systems, as exemplified by the recent attempt to steal 68 billion roubles through the Russian Central Bank's computer system.

The Russian Federation's conception of information security, which was examined by the Security Council Inter-Departmental Commission on Monday, should be considered an integral part of the country's system of national security, Rubanov declared.

Exercises Begin in Leningrad, Kaliningrad

MK2604091194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 1

[Russian Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate report: "Command and Staff Exercises Begin"]

[Text] The "North-West" command and staff exercises are being held between 25 and 30 April 1994 on the territory of Leningrad Military District and Kaliningrad Oblast under Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff, in accordance with the Russian Federation Armed Forces training plan. The goal of the exercises is to improve the practical skills of commanders and staffs in command and control of subordinated troops.

War Games in Kaliningrad

LD2504161394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1356 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—The goal of the command and staff "north-west" war games, which began on Monday in Russia's Kalinigrad region and the Leningrad military district, is to perfect the ability of command and staff officers to direct their units. ITAR-TASS was told by the Defence Ministry's press bureau that the exercises, run by Russian Chief of General Staff Colonel-General Mikhail Kolesnikov, will last until April 29.

According to military sources, the exercises are meant to check the military capabilities of the troops stationed in the Kaliningrad region in particular. Earlier, those troops had "powerful back-up in the rear, but have now ended up surrounded by states whose policies concerning Russia are not always clear", the source said.

This spring is full of army and naval training exercises. Large- scale tactical maneuvers were held in Tajikistan. The "Pomor-94" naval exercises were held in the Barents Sea, and Russian-American- Canadian "Arctic-Sarex" war games were held in Alaska. Eastern Siberia was host to the "Baykal" command and staff exercises. Over- all, by the end of 1994 will have been held three exercise programmes for the strategic nuclear forces and more than ten in the operational and tactical fields.

Such an intense schedule of military exercises is designed, according to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, "to maintain the battle-readiness of the Army and the power of the Navy, and to further develop the coordination of the commanding staff and troops, especially those that have been withdrawn from abroad back onto Russian territory".

Federal Assembly

Deputies Welcome Yeltsin's Civic Accord Proposal

LD2504130594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1113 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Apr—The Federation Council welcomes the political will of the Russian Federation president, expressed in his message on strengthening the Russian state, to continue the policy of reforms and to unite constructive forces in society for creative work for the good of the country and its citizens. The upper chamber of parliament expressed this stance in the Federation Council's address to the Russian Federation president in response to his message. The chamber adopted the address at its sitting today.

Deputies have informed Boris Yeltsin that they have defined "measures which when implemented will promote steady interaction between branches of authority in the interests of democracy."

Deputies stressed that "they regard the treaty on achieving civic accord in Russia as an important step toward implementing the president's message," since it allows "obligations undertaken by all branches of authority, parties and public organizations to be placed under democratic surveillance."

The document addressed by the parliamentarians to the head of state stresses that they are counting on a responsible attitude on the part of the the president and government towards topical problems raised by the Federation Council.

Deputies note with regret that so far the chamber's appeals have not always met with a proper response from the executive authority.

Shumeyko Assigned To Sign Accord

LD2504110494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0949 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—The Federation Council has assigned its chairman Vladimir Shumeyko to sign the treaty on civic concord. The council discussed today the draft treaty, submitted by the president.

Deputies to the Federation Council agreed, in general, with the decision of the Federation Council Committee for Constitutional Legislation about the topicality of raising the problem of establishing civic concord. In the opinion of the committee, the treaty is a "political document, which will not be a substitute to the Constitution." The obligations of the upper chamber of parliament, recorded in the treaty, "do not go beyond its constitutional prerogatives." The committee decided that the Federation Council may take part in the signing of the document. Chairman of the Committee Isa Kostoyev called attention to the fact that "the concluding of the political agreement is the result of the initiative of the president's side, which means that it no longer claims the monopoly on state power."

Duma Refuses To Consider Kozyrev, Churkin Dismissal

LD2604073694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0705 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS—The Russian State Duma turned down on Tuesday a proposal of the Liberal Democratic Party [of Russia—LDPR] of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy to include into its agenda the issue of dismissing Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and special envoy to former Yugoslavia Vitaliy Churkin.

Alexey Mitrofanov from the LDPR proposed that the Duma discuss "recommendations to the Russian president" on dismissing the two politicians for "collapse of the Balkan policy of Russia", a clear reference to the latest Bosnian developments.

Zhirinovskiy, known for his open pro-Serb policy, has often stated that Kozyrev is the main government member whom he wants to be sacked.

State Duma Approves Deputy Status Law

LD2504192894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1717 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—The Federal Law "On Status of a Deputy of the Federation Council and Status of a deputy of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation" was approved by the Upper House of the Russian Parliament on Monday.

In accordance with the new Russian Constitution this document was handed over to the Federation Council by the State Duma after it was adopted by the Lower House.

The law determines rights, duties and responsibilities of deputies of the Federal Assembly and envisages main legal and social guarantees in the execution of their deputy activities.

Duma Holds Hearings on Relations With China

LD2504103594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0937 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—The lower house of the Russian parliament held on Monday hearings on the state of and prospects for Russian-Chinese relations. The hearings were initiated by the International Committees of the Russian parliament's two chambers.

According to the deputy foreign minister, Aleksandr Panov, Russian-Chinese relations are a priority area of the Russian foreign policy.

The diplomat also noted in his speech that the Russian Foreign Ministry conducts a course for strengthening bilateral ties with China and sees its main task "in bringing Russian-Chinese relations to a level of constructive partnership". Panov noted that this line pursued by the Russian Foreign Office finds support from the Chinese side.

The deputy minister dwelt at length on problems in Russian- Chinese relations. He stressed that the situation in connection with the massive immigration of Chinese into Russia needs close attention.

It is aggravated by the fact that there is no law on the status of foreign citizens in Russia for the time being. In this connection the sides concluded an agreement which drastically cut the number of people having the right to a visa-free entry to Russia.

Apart from this, Panov continued, the problem of the border between the two countries remains acute. The diplomat underlined that the problem was "the main irritant in our relations until recently".

However, a joint Russian-Chinese demarcation commission is now actively working. It successfully resolves questions on ownership of disputed islands on border rivers. The diplomat also said that talks are in progress on cutting the strength of Russian and Chinese troops in border areas.

In the opinion of the deputy minister, it is necessary to develop infrastructure of the Russian-Chinese border in future, which will help promote trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Panov added that the turnover of border trade between Russia and China totalled 2.5 billion U.S. dollars last year.

He expressed opinion that it would be very profitable for Russia to lend a helping hand in modernisation of Chinese industrial enterprises built with Soviet assistance in the 1950s.

Revised Draft Budget Submitted to Duma

LD2204185494 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] A new version of the 1994 draft federal budget was submitted to the State Duma this evening.

As a result of amendments made by the Finance Ministry, the budget deficit has increased by nearly 6.5 trillion rubles, totalling 70 trillion rubles. It will be funded by credits from the Central Bank.

According to the document, the deficit grew because the expenditure part increased by 8 trillion rubles. This money has been earmarked for food purchases and investment in agriculture. The income part has also slightly increased because export and import duties have been raised.

Aleksandr Pochinok, deputy chairman of the committee for budget- related issues, told a correspondent of Ekho Moskvy that a joint parliamentary and government commission will now start work on the document since there are still many criticisms targeted at the budget.

Parliament Hearings on Tax System Reported

MK2604090094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 2

[Yelena Kolokoltseva report under the "Hearings" rubric: "Senators Recognize Tax System Imperfect. Federal Assembly To Look at Finance Ministry Draft on Tougher Fiscal Policy"]

[Text] During the 23 April parliamentary hearings in the Federation Council, Nikolay Gonchar, chairman of the Federation Council Budget Committee, heard the experts' opinion and proposed that the Finance Ministry's proposal on the complete abolition or considerable reduction of the number of tax privileges be supported. The hearings also made a decision to get the Federal Assembly to examine this draft in September to October 1994. It was proposed to enlist as experts Sergey Glazyev, chairman of the State Duma Economic Policy Committee; Vladimir Gusev, head of the tax service; and Dmitriy Lvov, corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences, among others.

Participants in the hearings recognized that Russia's tax system is imperfect. Tax service chief Sergey Almazov stated that tax evasion "has taken on a mass nature" and the number of court cases instituted does not reflect its real dimensions. Vladimir Gusev in turn intimated that the nonpayment of taxes into the budget had grown during the first quarter of 1994 by a factor of 1.7 over the corresponding period in 1993. The State Committee for Taxes is planning to discuss this problem at a sitting of its collegium in the second quarter.

Aleksandr Bukin, head of the Finance Ministry tax department, was more sanguine. He still expects that the revenue part of the budget will be completed as forecast.

Regional Affairs

Officer Killed in Pacific Fleet Naval Unit Attack

LD2604044194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0405 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Larisa Beloyvan]

[Text] Vladivostok April 26 TASS—An armed attack was made on a naval unit of the Pacific Fleet here on the night from Monday to Tuesday. Attackers fired two shots killing an officer on duty, Major A. Tedeyev, and managed to flee.

According to the press centre of the Pacific Fleet, there were four attackers. The gunmen, most likely, penetrated the unit's location with a view to stealing weapons. As a result of the attack, they seized two Makarov pistols and cartridges for them.

This was already a second such attack in recent days. Literally a week ago, on April 20, unidentified gunmen attacked a small arms depot in a Vladivostok suburb. At that time the patrolmen and the sentry mamaged to beat off the attack without losses.

The military prosecutor's office has launched an investigation of facts related to the attack.

Shumeyko Says Yeltsin Should Recognize Dudayev

LD2604082294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0619 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS—Russian leader Boris Yeltsin should recognise Dzhokhar Dudayev, the head of the self-styled Chechnya, as the official president of the Caucasian republic and begin negotiations with him, according to Vladimir Shumeyko, the speaker of the Federation Council who added that Chechnya should also display goodwill.

"Certain political goodwill should be displayed not only by the Russian side. President Dzhokhar Dudayev should recognise that the Chechen Republic is a subject of the Russian Federation", Shumeyko said in an interview with the "TRUD" newspaper on Tuesday.

"As soon as he does it negotiations should immediately begin", the speaker said.

Dudayev's election as president of Chechnya was annulled by the former Russian Supreme Soviet. The maverick president proclaimed independence from Russia, however, now Yeltsin had authorised to hold talks with the republic and appointed Nationalities Minister Sergey Shakhray to head the negotiations.

Shakhray believes Chechnya should follow suit of Tatarstan and sign a share-power deal with Moscow.

Luzhkov Disagrees With Chernomyrdin on Privatization

LD2604082494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0740 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS—Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov has disagreed with Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin on matters of carrying out privatisation in Moscow. Luzhkov expressed his disgreement in an offficial message addressed to the Russian prime minister.

The document, which came to ITAR-TASS today, says that Luzhkov cannot put up with the fact that the Russian prime minister did not support proposals nade by the city administration about special ways of holding privatisation in Moscow.

In Luzhkov's opinion, "special conditions" suggest that the mayor's office can manage facilities of federal property located on the territory of the capital, reserve the right to control a package of shares of privatised enterprises and independently determine the size of the authorized stock of auctioned enterprises. Luzhkov believes that all this runs contrary to the law on privatisation, including in part that a considerable part of colossal property concentrated in the capital will not be exchnaged into privatisation vouchers.

Earlier, it was reported that Russian President Boris Yeltsin familiarised himself with a draft law worked out by the Moscow city authorities in 1993 " on the introduction of a special order of privatisation in Moscow" and instructed the Russian government and the Russian Committee for State Property to jointly work out "compromise proposals."

However, officials of the Moscow government reported that the Moscow authorities had not yet sat down at the negotiating table with experts of the Russian Committee for State Property.

Recent developments show that a conflict between the Moscow mayor's office and the Committee for State Property over the pravatisation of the city property might turn into a conflict between the Moscow authorities and the federal government.

Tatarstan's Shaymiyev on Civic Accord Document

LD2504112994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1020 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—A document on civic accord should be called a declaration and should be signed, believes President of Tatarstan Shaymiyev. He believes the title of a declaration would mean a milder political approach to the agreement being concluded. Shaymiyev, a deputy of the Federation Council, said this in an interview to ITAR-TASS during a break in the council's meeting where the draft treaty on civic accord is being discussed today.

The Tatarstan president believes the agreement refers above all to parties and movements, but for comprehensive accord it should be joined by all republics, territories, regions. Stability in the country for the implementation of the economic reform should be achieved within definite political frameworks, Shaymiyev said.

Tatarstan Supreme Soviet Opening Reported

944F0606A Kazan KAZANSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 2

["Our correspondent" report: "Without Money Life Is Bad—No Good at All"]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of Tatarstan 19th session, which opened on Monday, has a very brief agenda. But it contains the extremely important question of the budget message of M. Shaymiyev, president of the republic. The mere fact that the Tatar Parliament is considering the question of the budget when there is as yet no Russian budget clearly illustrates the commencement of the Russian-Tatar treaty. After all, this was previously impossible in principle, and local members of parliament could only discuss figures already confirmed by Moscow.

No great joy on account of the new independence was discerned in the faces of the deputies, for that matter. A very gloomy picture is already taking shape from the three reports delivered on the first day of business of the session by the two deputy prime ministers and the minister of finance. All the negative trends of 1993 have only intensified in the first quarter of 1994. The decline in production, enterprises' nonpayments, and the corresponding reduction in the tax base are making optimization of the budget a nearly insoluble problem. This was why the deputies had a sea of questions for Finance Minister D. Nagumanov and F. Khamidullin, chairman of the State Committee for the Economy, who presented the forecast of socioeconomic development for 1994.

The question-and-answer warmup did not satisfy the deputies, and they decided to devote the latter half of the first day of business to a detailed study in committee of the material that had been presented.

The morning of day two of the business of the session began with questions to Deputy prime Minister R. Muratov, who had the day before reported the results of foreign economic activity. There were things to ask about. Imported food has been sold here at prices higher than world prices, and it is hard to see in the documents how the money earned was returned to the treasury or if it was returned at all. There are many puzzles concerning the petrodollars. It is now several sessions running that the deputies have attempted to obtain detailed information on the use of the oil money—and all to no avail as yet.

But the question of the coming reform of the Cabinet of Ministers was the most interesting. R. Muratov had already let slip this measure at the recent annual meeting of the Trade and Industry Chamber, and this topic was now heard at the session.

Just one thing was said about the essence of the reform: "Marketeers" should join the government. About everything else, we can only guess.

The first conjecture is an unsubtle one—an increase in the machinery of administration. We heard at the session that expenditure on this in 1991-1993 had tripled, so the trend is clear.

Things are more complex with regard to the "marketeers." Who personally? And in which position?

President M. Shaymiyev is remaining silent also. The deputy prime minister is responding to all questions in a skillfully evasive manner. And the presentation to parliament of the most important budget question was for some reason or other entrusted not to the prime minister....

The subject of reform of the government was heard in the debate also, but there was no further clarification. The main motifs in the deputies' speeches were, for all that, demands for money for various sectors, depending on their place of employment. V. Mustafin defended the interests of the defense industry, specifically the KAPO. M. Shaykhiyev put the main emphasis on agriculture. V. Ivanov, on housing construction. O. Vladimirov, on investments in power engineering. This could be continued ad infinitum.

The simple question of where the money for all this was to come from remained unclear.

Through the mouth of Deputy A. Shtanin the "Power of the People" group moved that the budget in the form in which it had been presented be rejected and modified, revenue from exports and off- budget funds having been included in it. Deputy I. Salakhov made even more drastic proposals. The main one was that the cabinet be required before mid-May to have drawn up an anticrisis program and that socioeconomic development be forecast and the budget approved only then.

Somehow on the quiet and imperceptibly in the interval between money battles the Supreme Soviet elected eight people's judges and terminated ahead of time the authority as deputies of I. Grachev, V. Mikhaylov, and G. Yegorov in connection with their election to the Russian Duma. Well, bon voyage!

The evening sitting was addressed by M. Sabirov, prime minister of Tatarstan.

Further on Tatarstan Supreme Soviet

944F0606B Kazan KAZANSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 2

["Our correspondent" report: "Parliament Days"]

[Text] Yesterday's business of the Supreme Soviet 19th session began with the perfectly composed approval of the account of administration of the budget for 1993. The acute critical charge of the speeches on the previous two days was not reflected in the results of the voting at all.

The bill on the budget system for 1994 was taken as read just as calmly. The Planning and Budget Commission embarked on its modification, and everyone else embarked on the "resort" act submitted by the trade unions.

The essence of the problem here is as follows. The passes that are sold by the unions at preferential prices or provided altogether without charge and paid for from the social insurance fund are regarded by the tax inspectorate, apparently, as citizens' supplementary income. Accordingly, income tax, according to currency legislation, has to be collected from this income.

An example: The full cost of a pass is R700,000; the preferential 10 percent cost, R70,000; the income of the vacationer (or patient), R630,000; income tax, R75,600. And even if the pass is free, the tax forces a person to pay the treasury R84,000. Yet the social insurance fund is formed from enterprise deductions, that is, from wages, essentially.

At first sight the matter is clear: People need to be exempted from this tax. But an attendant question arose at the session also: Should this privilege be accorded to all in succession or should its use be confined merely to needy citizens? The latter proposal of Deputy M. Khafizov was supported by President M. Shaymiyev also. As a result, the Legislation Commission received the assignment of urgent modification of the bill. Then Deputy K. Iskhakov presented a draft decree on the procedure of implementation of the Public Service Act. The act itself was adopted at the previous session, and VEDOMOSTI has already written about its content. It remains to add that the law will be introduced gradually and that government officials will start their free leave travel in 1995.

Serious problems arose over the law on off-budget funds. Things had gone well at the morning sitting, seemingly, and the first two articles were, albeit not without difficulty, adopted. In the break something [line missing] began to kill article after article. One clearly had the feeling that some people had done some active work with them. Who might this have been?

If it is considered that from the very start of business of the present Supreme Soviet the government has carefully been withdrawing the off-budget funds from the deputies' control, the first suspicion is clear. It is, in fact, the last one also inasmuch as no one other than the government has such a level of influence on the corps of deputies. Ultimately the bill was sent for modification.

After an early lunch, which came about on account of problems over modification of the budget act, the session adopted quite rapidly the "resort" act, after which came one further unscheduled break, and for the same reason. The intensive bargaining in the Planning and Budget Commission with the participation of the government produced no result.

Ultimately the deputies were offered a draft budget with expenditure approximately one-fourth in excess of revenue. How, we would like to know, is this difference to be covered?

In the February budget this question was solved simply—by money issue. But Tatarstan does not have its own printing press, and it will be necessary, consequently, to look for some other ways.

The budget was not adopted, and the deputies will, therefore, work tomorrow also.

Plesetsk Spaceport Accidents, Crisis Role Recalled

PM2504124994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1235 GMT 22 Apr 94

[From the "Military Courier" program: Video report by Viktor Tkachenko, identified by caption; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds]

[Excerpts] [124158] [Tkachenko over aerial view of Mirnyy and missile transporters on a road] Many details pertaining to the history of the strategic missile forces have been kept secret. To this day, Arkhangelsk Oblast's Mirnyy city, which has a population of 40,000, does not feature on any maps. There is an explanation for this. Since 1957 missiles systems have been tested and satellites have been launched here at the Plesetsk test range.

Our country had to pay a high price for the acquisition of its nuclear missile shield during the Cold War years. Accidents occurred during delivery vehicle launches in 1973 and 1980. More than 50 people died. [video shows explosion and two soldiers dragging a third from scene of accident] [124232]

[124233 thru 124243—passage omitted—unidentified officer over video of memorial to those who died says he helped organize funerals and speaks of the impact the accident left on him]

[1244244] [Tkachenko over video of missile museum] Events connected with the Cuba crisis in the sixties form a special page in Plesetsk's history.

[N. Moroz, identified by caption] When it became known that the Soviet Union had 12 missiles which could reach the United States, this had a very sobering influence on politicians.

[Tkachenko over video of computer center] Now the international climate has changed. Since January 1992 missile test experts have a new mission—monitoring Russian and U.S. implementation of treaty obligations

on the exchange of information about test launches undertaken by the former potential enemies. This equipment was installed at the secret Plesetsk computer center by Americans. And Russian specialists have installed similar equipment in the United States. Thus no strategic missile test launch in either Russia or across the ocean is a secret any longer. But equally it is no secret that both the Russian and the American missile experts are keeping their powder dry and already thinking about the missiles of the 21st century. [video shows missile transporters on road, aerial view of Mirnyy, museum, Moroz interview, interior of Plesetsk computer center, closeups of SS-25 missiles emerging from hangars and on a road] [124336]

Government Defaults on Loans to Maritime Kray Farmers

OW2504144394 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 19 Apr 94

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] Farmers in the Maritime Kray have started sowing their early grain crops half a month later than usual. The reason for the disruption to the agricultural timetable was the acute shortage of funds during the preparations for sowing, which caused numerous shortcomings in equipment repair, fuel, and mineral fertilizers. In March the Russian Government promised nearly 40 billion rubles in loans to assist peasants in the Maritime Kray with their sowing operations. However, up to now only a little more than half of this sum has been received.

Commercial banks to which the peasants have applied for advances are giving loans only on collateral. However, the majority of farmers have no possibility of accepting this; their workers have not received wages for several months.

As a result, only 4,000 hectares of early grain crops have been sown in the Maritime Kray so far, which is 15-fold less than for the same period last year.

Bad Weather Halts Spring Sowing in Belgorod Oblast

PM2504154994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

[Report "based on material from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and ITAR-TASS correspondents" under the "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" rubric: "Weather Prevents Sowing"]

[Text] At the very height of field work, the sowing of early grain crops in Belgorod Oblast has been suspended. The reason for this is bad weather.

Sowing machines have stopped work in most rayons because of the rain which has affected practically the entire territory of the Belgorod region area. As of today 86 percent of areas here have already been sown to early grain crops. So as not to lose time and to complete sowing in the shortest time possible, machine operators have organized duty rosters in field camps. As soon as weather conditions permit they are ready to bring the full range of agricultural equipment into operation.

International Affairs

'Sources' Say Russia 'Frustrated' by Fleet Talks

LD2204183294 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] TV and radio agency Novyny learned from official sources that the negotiations in Sevastopol on the Black Sea Fleet division between Ukraine and Russia were frustrated through the fault of the Russian side. On 22 April at 1500 Kiev time, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev was to hear and sign, together with his Ukrainian counterpart Vitaliy Radetskyy, the texts of relevant documents drafted by expert commissions. Without explaining his unexpected decision, Grachev left the session hall and departed from Crimea. You can hear more about further developments in Crimea in our subsequent news bulletins.

Fleet Commanders' Stance Coincides With Russia's

LD2304212294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2027 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow 23 April TASS—The position of the Black Sea Fleet commanders fully coincides with that of the Russian delegation to the talks on gradual settlement of the Black Sea Fleet dispute, First Deputy Commander of the Black Sea Fleet Vitaliy Larionov said.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Saturday, Larionov said that number one problem is the location of the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy. He accused the Ukrainian side of shying away from this issue and concentrating instead on the division of the fleet.

Ukraine believes that both forces should stay in Sevastopol and rules out other variants. But the Black Sea Fleet includes, apart from ships, land infrastructure, aviation, coastal guards, engineering systems and other facilities.

The Russian delegation showed patience and willingness to find a common ground at the talks. But after Ukraine refused to discuss the location of the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy and sign a protocol of disagreements the Russian side had to suspend negotiations.

Larionov believes, however, that there is still a chance of resolving the dispute. He called on both sides to take a responsible approach and work out a constructive position.

Kravchuk on Division of Black Sea Fleet

LD2504173894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1741 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Report by UKRINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Kiev 25 April TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said on Monday that the documents on the Black Sea Fleet signed by Ukraine and Russia provide ample possibilities for settling the dispute.

Speaking to journalists in Kiev on Monday, Kravchuk said that the Russian and Ukrainian defence ministers sought possible solutions at their meeting in Sevastopol, but the problem can be solved fully only by the presidents of the two countries. "I am against hasty assessments. I would not like the work of the two ministers to be viewed as a position of either side," he said.

"Our position is clear. We want Russia to agree to divide the fleet 50-50 as stipulated by the Yalta agreements. Proceeding from present-day realities, Ukraine should take 15-20 per cent of ships. The rest 30-35 per cent will be either sold or used to compensate Russia for Ukrainian debts," he said.

Speaking about the location of the fleet, Kravchuk pointed out that "a Navy base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet is being set up in Sevastopol in accordance with generally-recognised international norms. This is not new. This has been done before in other countries. Balaklava will be the home base of the Ukrainian Navy. We do not say that everything must be changed in one day. But the Russian side should take into account our position—we cannot take only ships and leave officers. It must be settled in a civilised manner."

The president believes that the dispute can be solved by Russia and Ukraine without any outside interference or assistance. "The Black Sea Fleet is a local issue. It is not as global as the nuclear problem. We must solve it in a civilised manner, taking into account long-term interests of the two countries and counting on equal partnership. That's what should be used as the foundation for resolving the problem, not ambitions or wishes of some concrete people. The military think by military categories. We must think by national categories, the interests of the two great nations. We must not rush conclusions, statements and hints. We need to be patient," Kravchuk said.

He believes that the present tensions over the Black Sea Fleet were also caused by the actions of Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov. "When the defence ministers were meeting, Yuriy Meshkov made a statement that Ukrainian troops must leave the peninsular. Such statements border on ignorance. One cannot be serious demanding that Ukraine must leave the Crimea, its territory which has been officially and constitutionally recognised by the world and Russia. The 1990 agreement says that we have no territorial claims. This is also written down in the three-party agreement, under which Ukraine, the United States and Russia support sovereignty, inviolability of borders and independence."

During the meeting on 15 April President Boris Yeltsin and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin confirmed their respect for Ukraine's territorial integrity and its sovereignty. This was said openly and straightforwardly, Kravchuk noted.

"Relations with the Crimea, which is part of Ukraine, should be normal and business-like. We want to help the Crimea and we do help it," he added.

Speaking about Ukraine's next move in settling the Black Sea Fleet dispute, Kravchuk said "we will get in touch with the president of Russia and agree our next meeting. I am convinced that we must solve this problem not to the detriment of Ukraine, the Crimea, Russia or the world community. We must solve it for the benefit of security, cooperation and friendly partnership relations."

Kravchuk Expresses Condolences Over Nixon's Death

LD2304163194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1535 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Report by UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Kiev, 23 Apr—"I have learned with deep regret of the demise of Richard Nixon, the eminent United States politician and statesman." Thus run the condolences expressed by President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine.

"Richard Nixon," the Ukrainian president notes, "visited Ukraine several times. I recall with pleasure our meeting a month ago. Mr. Nixon had a deep understanding of the problems facing Ukraine on its path to restoration of statehood and he was sincere in striving to assist in solving them. The people of Ukraine are warmly grateful to him for his friendship and assistance." "I share the grief of the deceased's family and express my deepest sympathy for it," the Ukrainian president says in his condolences.

Kravchuk Receives WEU Secretary General

LD2204225394 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, 22 Apr—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has received Willem van Eekelen, secretary general of the Western European Union [WEU], who is on an official visit to Ukraine.

Ukraine comes out for the creation of an all-embracing security system in Europe and regards its participation in this system as one of the main external guarantees of its own national security, pointed out President Leonid Kravchuk. He told the guest that Ukraine regards cooperation with European structures as one of the priorities in its foreign policy. A proof of this is the fact that Ukraine was the first among the CIS countries to joint NATO's Partnership for Peace. Possibilities of admitting Ukraine to the consultative forum for cooperation of the WEU with the countries of central-eastern Europe and the Baltic states were discussed during the meeting. The Ukrainian president informed the secretary general about the political situation inside the state after the parliamentary election, which, in the opinion of the interlocutors, should not affect relations with foreign states.

WEU Head Comments on Meeting

LD2304095994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0849 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Trotsenko—TASS]

[Text] Kiev 23 April TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Secretary-General of the Western European Union [WEU] Willem van Eekelen who met here on Saturday, discussed collective security in Europe, stability in the region and development of contacts between the Western European Union and Ukraine.

Later in the day, Eekelen who visits Ukraine on an official mission at the invitation of the Ukrainian Peace Fund held a news conference where he stressed that he was satisfied with the results of his visit.

He noted that meetings with Kravchuk and other Ukrainian leaders as well as broad exchange of opinions gave him a chance to understand better problems facing Ukraine.

The secretary-general said that Europe now is not divided into two blocs. All nations should assume obligations to promote peace processes. "I believe that Ukraine, an influential European state, should play an important role in such issues." This is largely explained by its geopolitcal position in Europe.

Asked by UKRINFORM whether Ukraine can be at least an associated member of the European or Western European Unions, the guest replied that this process will be gradual. However, the process does not preclude broader cooperation between Ukraine and European structures.

This cooperation can develop even now in the form of a political dialogue and consultations, interparliamentary relations as well as in the framework of the Institute on Studies of Political Security which functions at European structures and which can establish fruitful relations with the International Relations Institute at the Kiev University.

The secretary-general stressed that the Ukrainian president displayed interest in these forms of cooperation. According to Eekelen, Kravchuk said that such contacts should be actively developed.

Zlenko Hold News Conference on Talks in Hanoi

LD2204134994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0745 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Blagov]

[Text] Hanoi, 22 Apr—The talks in the Vietnamese capital have confirmed that both sides wish to deepen bilateral cooperation. This was stated at a news conference today by Anatoliy Zlenko, who is here on an official visit. This is the first visit to Hanoi by a Ukrainian foreign minister since diplomatic relations were established between the two countries.

Vietnam occupies an important place in our foreign policy and foreign trade, A. Zlenko stressed at the news conference. Ukraine is aware of the benefits that relations with the SRV offer to both sides, and the talks in Hanoi have made it possible to clarify ways of deepening bilateral cooperation and mapping out new forms in which it can be conducted. There are good prospects for the development of economic cooperation between the two countries, including cooperation in oil refining, engineering, ferrous metallurgy, and sea transport, the Ukrainian foreign minister pointed out.

A. Zlenko held talks here with his Vietnamese colleague Nguyen Manh Cam. Today he was received by Vo Van Kiet, the SRV prime minister, and Le Duc Anh, the SRV president. The head of the Vietnamese Government confirmed his intention to pay an official visit to the Ukraine. A. Zlenko said this would open up a new page in relations between the two states. Agreements on encouragement and protection of investments and avoidance of double taxation are expected to be signed during the visit. These will be the basis of long-term cooperation between the two states. A. Zlenko told ITAR-TASS that the visit to Kiev by Vo Van Kiet—the first by an SRV prime minister in the history of bilateral relations—is scheduled for the first 10 days of June.

The great importance which both sides attach to the development of traditional cooperation on a new basis was noted during the meeting between the Ukrainian foreign minister and the Vietnamese president. A. Zlenko handed Le Duc Anh a personal message from Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk.

Foreign Minister Zlenko Calls for Settlement in Bosnia

LD2204143494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0857 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Blagov]

[Text] Hanoi, 22 Apr—We are eager to see accords on a Bosnian settlement, including those reached with the active involvement of Russian diplomacy, applied in practice. This was stated in an ITAR-TASS interview today by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, who is here on an official visit. We would like peace and tranquility to return to that region as quickly as possible, he said. If good will is shown and the warring parties and all interested states display a willingness to cooperate, a political solution to the Bosnian question can be found. A cease-fire is, unquestionably, the key to this. This must be followed by the continuation of peace talks involving international organizations, the Ukrainian foreign minister said.

We will do our best to facilitate a political settlement of the Bosnian problem at the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and other international organizations, Zlenko stressed. Ukraine is also prepared to do its utmost to promote an international meeting on a Bosnian settlement. We believe that the Bosnian problem poses a threat not only to the peoples of the Balkans.

Foreign Minister Praises Talks With SRV Officials

WS2204111794 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Negotiations in Hanoi have confirmed that both sides are willing to deepen their bilateral cooperation, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko—who is currently on an official visit there—has said today at a press conference. This has been the first visit to Hanoi by the head of Ukraine's foreign policy department since the two countries established diplomatic relations. Vietnam holds an important place in our foreign political and economic interests, Zlenko emphasized at the press conference. Ukraine is aware that relations with Vietnam are promising and mutually beneficial. Negotiations held in Hanoi have allowed to define directions for deepening bilateral cooperation and its forms more precisely.

Anatoliy Zlenko yesterday held talks with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam. Today, he was received by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and President Le Duc Anh. The head of the Vietnamese Government has reaffirmed that he is going to pay an official visit to Ukraine.

Zlenko Returns From Visits to Iran, Vietnam

LD2504092094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Anatoliy Zlenko, Ukraine's minister of foreign affairs, who has been on official visits to Iran, India, and Vietnam, returned to Kiev on 24 April. Replying to journalists' questions, he said in particular that the development of relations with countries of the Asia-Pacific region fully corresponds to Ukraine's foreign policy concept. The realities of life in our state, he said, nudge us toward searching for new partners, who have already accumulated a great deal of experience in various fields. In the opinion of Anatoliy Zlenko, on the one hand this experience would be extremely useful in the implementation of reforms in Ukraine, and on the other hand it would be useful in the practical resolution of

economic problems. We would like to see advantageous partners in the countries of the Asian region, who are currently also looking for a way in to new markets, the minister noted.

On the way to Kiev Anatoliy Zlenko stopped in Ashgabat, where he met the leaders of Turkmenistan's cabinet of ministers. The discussions centered on the development of bilateral relations, particularly in the economic field.

Delegation Arrives in Tokyo To Discuss Relations

WS2604085794 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] A Ukrainian Foreign Ministry delegation, headed by First Deputy Foreign Minister Mykola Makarevich, has arrived in Tokyo to conduct talks and consultations regarding the development and deepening of bilateral Ukrainian-Japanese relations. This was reported by the press center of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry.

Estonian Defense Minister Continues Visit

WS2204163294 Tallinn BNS in English 1005 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Tallinn, 22 Apr, BNS—Estonian Defense Minister Indrek Kannik continued his visit to Ukraine Thursday [21 April] in a meeting with Minister Dmytro Chernenko, the chief of Ukraine's military industries.

Kannik told BNS after the meeting that Chernenko and the high-ranking officers who attended the meeting offered Estonia extensive cooperation in the defense sphere. Ukraine is prepared to advise Estonia in hi-tech manufacturing of military hardware and consider selling military technology and armaments to Estonia. Ukraine also proposed that Estonian servicemen might rest at Ukrainian resorts and vice versa.

Rein Helme, the chairman of the parliamentary defense commission who accompanies Kannik on his visit to Ukraine, told BNS that the Ukrainian Defense Ministry was interested in the output of the Estonian light and food industry, especially fish products and textiles.

The meeting discussed the possibilities for producing and procuring ammunition, but no concrete agreements were made. The parties decided to set up working groups to explore and resolve the issue. They also touched on the possibility of repairing Estonian armaments in Ukraine. [passage omitted]

National Affairs

Kravchuk Not To Run for Presidency in Elections

LD2504182094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1723 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Report by UKRINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Kiev 25 April TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk confirmed on Monday he will not run for presidency in the upcoming elections.

The announcement was made at a meeting with the editorial board of the newspaper KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI. Kravchuk also said he will insist in the parliament on the postponement of the elections.

Kravchuk Spokesman on Presidential Elections

LD2504151494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk believes that the holding of presidential elections on 26 June is "not completely legal." If a new parliament confirms its decision on holding elections and gives them legal force, then the president will determine his attitude to the elections, INTERFAX-UKRAINE was told Monday by the head of the presidential service responsible for internal policy, Nikolai Mikhalchenko.

On Saturday, the president said that he intended to request that the new parliament give its opinion on presidential and local elections. Kravchuk also said that he still believed that presidential elections in Ukraine on 26 June were premature.

Speaking about his attitude to the presidential elections, he said "I shall not agree to holding elections until they are backed by our Constitution and laws."

In January, President Kravchuk said that he did not intend to take part in the presidential elections on 26 June. In later statements he did not change his point of view.

Mikhalchenko said that the organizations which nominated Kravchuk as candidate for presidency may collect signatures without waiting for his final decision on standing for election.

According to Ukrainian electoral law, the nomination begins 90 days before the elections and ends 60 days before.

A candidate may be nominated by a party at a congress or by an assembly of 500 voters.

The nominee may be registered if he collects 50,000 signatures, including at least a thousand from each of two-thirds of the total number of constituencies.

Meshkov Rejects Kravchuk's Accusations of Separatism

LD2504140394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1316 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow 25 April TASS—Crimean leader Yuriy Meshkov rejected on Monday accusations of separatism

voiced by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and accused Kiev of pushing the peninsula out of the country.

Speaking to ITAR-TASS by telephone, he turned down Kravchuk's allegations that the Crimea is looking for independence. On the contrary, Meshkov stated, it was Ukrainian Defence Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy who actually "expelled the Crimea from Ukraine" banning its president from participating in the Russian-Ukrainian talks on the Black Sea fleet held last week in Sevastopol.

Meshkov said that "on the eve of the presidential elections Kiev is merely staging a political show to please nationalists of all sorts".

According to the Crimean president, the Ukrainian leadership makes "a serious mistake" by ignoring the opinion of Crimea's people on the sharing of the fleet, whereas it would be the best option to attract the Crimea to the negotiations in the capacity of the third party.

Parliament Speaker Views Elections, Crimea

AU2504171394 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 20 Apr 94 p 2

[Interview with chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council I. Plyushch by Serhiy Pravdenko, HOLOS UKRAYINY editor in chief, Eldar Seyidbekirov, and Svitlana Pysarenko for the newspapers HOLOS UKRAYINY and GOLOS KRYMA on 13 April 1994; place not given: "The People Are Looking Forward to Changes and Are Associating These Changes With New Democratic Forces"]

[Text] [Question] Ivan Stepanovych, is it possible, already today, to draw some conclusions on the elections. How do you see the new parliament?

[Plyushch] I am generally pleased with the elections to the new parliament, although I expected better results. Take, for example, Kiev. The capital has remained as though uninvolved. Only five out of 23 constituencies elected their deputies. Many of the constituencies were 1,000, 1,500, or 2,000 voters short each. This indicates that the elections were not properly organized and that the election campaign was not sufficiently well conducted.

I hope that Kievans do strive to create a law-governed state and that they will express this striving at repeat elections by taking part in the voting.

Regarding the political forces that came to the parliament, this question is not a simple one. One should not make hasty conclusions as though the "left-wing" or the "right-wing" forces have prevailed. Had our society been structured as "left" and "right" or in terms of parties, then some conclusions could be drawn. More that 100 deputies from the "left-wing" forces have come to the parliament—representatives of the Communist Party, Socialists Party, and Peasant Party. However, when I went over their election platforms, I did not come across any indication there that they had come to the Supreme Council in order to fight it. They do not cast any aspersions on Ukraine's strategic course. It is only a matter of changing tactics.

However, one cannot say that the democratic forces suffered a defeat. Talking about the defeat of Rukh [Ukraine's People's Movement for Perestroyka], the Democratic Party, the Ukrainian Republican Party, or the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party—it is true that the number of their deputies has dwindled. Well, there are about 100 "left-wingers" and more than 50 "right-wingers." The total is about 150. How about the rest of the elected deputies? I think that they constitute a healthy center. In my opinion, this political force will constitute that backbone to which both "left-wingers" and "right-wingers" will cling. Perhaps, small "wings" of the "radical left" and of the "radical right" will remain. It is a normal phenomenon.

Nor do I see a tragedy in the fact that many well-known people's deputies failed to gain a victory at these elections. Objectively, people are looking forward to changes and are associating these changes, at the new stage, with new democratic forces. Those deputies who have not been elected at the recent elections have extensive experience and will be able to put it to use by getting mandates of deputies in local councils as well as in executive structures.

I was in favor of holding the elections during the fall of 1993. The level at which the democratic forces were at that time was quite high and strong. We arrived at the elections at a different and a lower level, when the so-called democratic forces retreated from their positions somewhat. Unless elections to the local power structures are held in June, the situation will become further exacerbated. This is one of the factors—a political one. Here is another factor, just appraise it. If one plans to contend at elections and wants to get a mandate, he will work with double energy. If the time for elections comes and one is not sure that he will be elected, he will primarily resolve his personal problems.

Third, people are already looking forward to elections. It is clear that those who want the process of development to be a guided one and who do not want chaos to prevail are looking forward to elections. The opinions became divided: Those who are sure of themselves are in favor of elections, and those who fear elections are against them. I believe that elections of representative and executive bodies from villages to oblasts will take place. Regarding presidential elections, it is not such a burning question as it is presented. If the Supreme Council approves the amendment to the Constitution and the prime minister becomes head of the executive power and forms that power, then is it really necessary to elect a president through nationwide elections, or perhaps the president who is now in office will continue fulfilling his functions? Meanwhile, the Law on Ukrainian Presidential Elections is still in effect....

Unfortunately, the parliamentary elections proceeded against the background of strained relations with Russia. You know, after the first round of voting, I met with representatives of the Russian State Duma and I thought that political forces that realized that Ukraine was in earnest and forever were beginning to prevail and win in Russia. However, for some reason, recently, when gleams of political stability appeared in Ukraine and when changes for the better started taking shape in the economy, as we are already repaying our debt to Russia, despite everything, certain political forces in Russia have made themselves felt. Not only on the territory of the CIS, but also far away from it, they stir up passions and impose upon everybody their opinion that Ukraine cannot exist without Russia and that Russia cannot exist without Ukraine. The Crimean card is being played with increasing fervor.

[Question] How do you, Ivan Stepanovych assess the recent events in the Crimea? What is your opinion of the institution of presidency in the Crimea and the first steps taken by [Crimean President] Yu. Meshkov—the transition to the Moscow time, the directive on the military service for the Crimeans on the Crimean territory, and the dismissal of the Security Service chief and the minister of internal affairs from their posts?

[Plyushch] You have formulated your question in a very narrow way. The Crimean problem did not start with electing Yuriy Meshkov as president of the Crimea. It is older than that. Of course, I do not claim to be the only owner of the truth. However, as a citizen and a political figure, I cannot remain silent. My conclusion is as follows: It is a well-planned and coordinated action on the part of certain political forces in Russia that have inherited the aforementioned qualities from the former Soviet Union. I think that it will not be long before we learn the truth about this. Only then will we assess objectively everything that is going on in the Crimea; this is just a fraction of the large-scale operation. Journalists will find a name for it.

I recommend that you read the interview with Lieutenant General Lebed in KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. He thoroughly imbibed everything that has been going on in the former Soviet Union during recent years and what is going on now. In my opinion, Lieutenant General Lebed, who was in charge of individual operations, wants the people to know the truth. A reporter asked him why he had started writing (this frontline general writes books), and he replied that he hoped that the people would stop and think of how to put life in order in such a colossally large country as Russia with its 150-million population. If this figure—150 million—had not been mentioned, I would still have doubts as to what country he had in mind.... He was only talking about Russia. First, build life in your own country and then pacify, teach, and improve others. It is not Russia that must unilaterally resolve problems of the former Union. The CIS had to do this. However, nothing has been resolved over more than two years. The Dniester Region, according to him, is the problem for Moldovans and Russians and the Crimea—for Russia and Ukraine. How about Baykonur? [President of Kazakhstan] Nursultan Nazarbayev is an intelligent person. An agreement for leasing Baykonur was concluded, and billions [monetary unit not specified] were hoped for. Where from? Where can a country that imports much of its foodstuffs get this much money? Well, the CIS had to tackle the problems of the Black Sea Fleet, the Crimea, the Dniester Region, Abkhazia, and so on. Just a few years ago, Gorbachev repeatedly said: "Don't you worry, this will also start in Ukraine." Some people now want this to start. Even in Russia's embassies much is done to shape the opinion in the United States and in developed Western countries to the effect that it is impossible to separate Ukraine from Russia.

On the television, they show, close-up, Chernomyrdin and Kebich signing the agreement on common currency. Nobody is saying how they understand it. The ECU in the European Community did not emerge right away, but only after corresponding conditions were created and only for interstate settlements, whereas the states have retained their national currencies. In the CIS, attempts are being made to draw the countries into the ruble zone. This is also one of the fundamental problems that the CIS must resolve.

The same applies to the Crimean issue. Who can determine today which of the peoples residing in the Crimea has more right to talk about itself as the people of the Crimea? The Crimean Tatar population is speaking about its autonomy. Undoubtedly, it has every reason for this. Today, hardly anybody would disagree with the fact that 50 years ago, a crime was committed against this people—a whole people. It took almost half a century for this people to be rehabilitated; apologies were made to them, and they were offered to come and settle [in the Crimea]. However, it was Suslov's ideology. In adopting this decision, they did not think that it needed to be fulfilled. It was simply a political step, like yet another noisy campaign; to say one thing, to write something else, and to do something entirely different.

Furthermore, some people say that the Russian-speaking population residing in the Crimea is the troublemaker. In the course of the implementation of the specific Soviet national policy, the Crimea and Sevastopol were specially colonized by Russians. How can these people inhabiting the peninsula be accused of anything, these people who previously served for 15 or 20 years in the cold seas? They knew that, after the service, they would live in warm Sevastopol under the gentle Crimean sun. Or take Tauria, the northern part of the Crimea, where Ukrainians constitute one-third of the population; did they ever think that they would see the times when somebody would try to determine whether or not they are indigenous, whether they have the right to live in the Crimea, and whether they side with Ukraine or with Russia? It never occurred to them. I know the moods of those people.

I am sure that the Crimean population understands all of this. Look, Moldova has changed its stand and held elections. There were 75 percent of voters, they elected the parliament, and embarked upon the road toward development. They don't even think about [uniting with] Romania. What should the Dniester Region do? Where to go? Russia does not accept it. Nor does Ukraine. We have an agreement with Moldova, and we cannot violate it. The same may happen to the Crimea—as is happening in Abkhazia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia. This must be realized by those high-ranking officials, who cannot properly handle their presentation weapons, which go off inside their pockets [an allusion to commander of the Black Sea Fleet Admiral E. Baltin].

[Question] Ivan Stepanovych, in 1991, at an assembly of the Crimean Tatars—Kurultay—a Majlis was elected and granted the status of a supreme plenipotentiary representative body. At the recent elections to the Crimean Supreme Council, where the quota was 14 seats, the Majlis actually received all the mandates. Do you find it expedient to recognize the Majlis as a supreme representative body?

[Plyushch] I will, perhaps, disappoint you. I have deep respect for Dzhemilev and Chubarov, leaders of the Majlis. However, as an official, I am responsible for maintaining peace and calm in the state—among the Crimean Tatars, among the Russians, and among the Ukrainians. If, as you are saying, the Majlis is recognized as a representative body of the Crimean Tatar population, this would not do any good either to the Crimean Tatars themselves, to the Russians, or to the Ukrainians. It would lead to hostility and confrontation.

A certain protocol must be followed in intrastate and interstate relations. I will quote an example. Before leaving for the celebration of the 72d anniversary of Turkey's Great National Assembly, I included Kurashyk, who was at that time chairman of the Crimean Council of Ministers, in the delegation. However, it was quite embarrassing for me when, among the state delegations that took part in the festivities, I also saw a Crimean delegation with Dzhemilev and Chubarov at the head. It was regarded as a state delegation. They should have officially made proposals on the composition of the Ukrainian delegation, taking into account Dzhemilev's and Chubarov's long-standing and close ties with Turkey. Then everything would have been entirely different. As it were, the situation might be regarded as a challenge to Ukraine.

Later, I had a conversation with the president of Turkey. I thanked him for his understanding of the problems of the Crimea and Crimean Tatars, who were settling in the Crimea, and for the intention to provide assistance to Ukraine for resolving urgent and vital issues of the Crimean Tatar population—the building of housing, reclamation of land, arrival in the homeland, and so on.

I would like to thank the peninsula's Crimean Tatar population and the Majlis for the well-balanced policy it has been pursuing over recent years. Believe me, my attitude toward the Crimean Tatar autonomy is precisely the same as toward the Crimean Russian, or, for example, Crimean Ukrainian autonomies. Yuriy Meshkov gives preference to the Crimean Russian autonomy, Chubarov, and Dzhemilev to the Crimean Tatar one. I want an Autonomous Crimean Republic within Ukraine.

[Question] They say that Crimean autonomy has become a precursor for Ukraine's federalization. What is your attitude toward this and how do you assess the situation?

[Plyushch] The Crimea is one thing and Ukraine's federalization is something different altogether. Do not link the Crimea to federalization. Even though the law "On the Division of Powers Among the State Bodies of Ukraine and the Crimea" with changes and additions to it is the first stage in the development of future federal principles of organizational administration in Ukraine, the division of functions among the Cabinet of Ministers and central power structures, on the one hand, and regional bodies of executive power and self-government, on the other hand, may become the next step. How many years this is going to take will depend upon the course of reforms. How can there be any talk about a federal structure in the conditions when central organs govern 70 percent of property. When people think in the following terms: If we speak Russian, our pension will double and if Ukrainian it will be in coupons [karbovantsi]. Who talks of a federalization here?

Our society needs to mature. This is my opinion: If we are in favor of a democratic and law-governed state, then we are in favor of a federal structure. If we advocate an administrative command system—this means a unitary system. This is largely how things are.

Rukh Opposes Elections, Refrains From Nominating Candidate

WS2504194194 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 22 Apr 94 p 2

[Declaration by the Fifth All-Ukrainian Assembly of the Ukrainian People's Rukh]

[Text] The two and a half years of Ukraine's national independence have demonstrated the impossibility of resolving the urgent issues of state construction without a decisive choice of the direction of the state's development. The absence of strategic definiteness and successiveness in the activities of the supreme bodies of power, primarily the Supreme Council and the president, have become the principal causes prompting the decision to terminate their powers and call early elections.

The elections of the first Ukrainian legislature held in accordance with the electoral law adopted by the last Supreme Council of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, a law of an explicitly antistate nature, hampered the creation of a politically determinate and structured Ukrainian legislature.

Under these circumstances, the issue of an expeditious choice of ways to form the bodies of state power and administration, and their structure is becoming of primary importance. In particular, this concerns executive power, as well as the status, functions, and powers of the head of the Ukrainian state.

Confirming its opposition to the current executive power and its leadership, and supporting the resolution by the Small Council on the expediency of postponing presidential elections until a later date when the above issues have been resolved, the Fifth All-Ukrainian Congress of the People's Rukh of Ukraine, in light of the current circumstances, believes it advisable to refrain from nominating a Rukh candidate for president.

The People's Rukh's Small Council has been requested to finalize the decision regarding Rukh participation in the presidential election campaign.

We are appealing to all democratic and national-patriotic forces to join their efforts to prevent Ukraine from embarking on the procommunist and proimperial path.

Repeat Elections for People's Deputies To Be Held 24 Jul

LD2504184894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1430 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, 25 Apr—The Central Electoral Commission for the election of people's deputies of Ukraine has issued a resolution on fixing repeat elections of people's deputies of Ukraine in constituencies where the elections were void or where a deputy was not elected in March-April 1994. The resolution notes:

1. On the basis of Articles 14 and 48 of the law on the elections of people's deputies of Ukraine to schedule repeat elections of people's deputies of Ukraine in 112 constituencies where elections were void or where a deputy was not elected, for Sunday, 24 July 1994;

2. To establish that repeat elections are carried out by district and area electoral commissions with the existing personnel. To allow the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea, oblast, town, city rayon, settlement, and village councils of people's deputies to introduce changes where necessary to the composition of the relevant electoral commissions or in certain cases, to recreate them with new personnel in accordance with the demands of the law on elections.

Crimean Edicts Said To Mean Confrontation With Kiev

AU2504135994 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 21 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Oleksa Kurpas: "A Pig in a Poke From Meshkov"]

[Text] On the economic front in the confrontation between the Crimea and Ukraine, the latter has sustained a defeat. On 11 April, Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov signed three edicts under the numbers 37/94, 38/94, and 39/94.... These are the edicts "On Currency Regulation and Currency Control," "On Banks and Banking Activity," and "On the Improvement of Taxation and the System of Settlements in the Economic Circulation." This has become a real shock for Ukraine's entrepreneurs.

For example, the first of the edicts allows the circulation on the Crimean territory of any foreign currency and, to spite Zvyahilskyy, it envisages the creation of the Crimean Interbank Currency Exchange. By the second edict, the peninsula has placed Ukraine's National Bank and our commercial banks in a quite desperate situation. At present, the Central Bank in the Crimea may carry out functions of a national bank (with the exception of issuing money). It may be expected that newly created Crimean banks will gather speed very fast, because low fixed capital will be assigned to them and they will be allowed to purchase and sell precious metals and stones, as well foreign securities. Incidentally, it is now possible to expect a difference in the rates of exchange of the Ukrainian karbovanets because in the Crimea, its rate of exchange will be determined through auctions at the Currency Exchange.

The third edict is a blow below the waist to Ukraine's Ministry of Finance. It envisages immediate replacement of the income tax by the tax (30 percent) on the profit and further improvement of the taxation system with canceling many types of Ukrainian taxes.

If these innovations are taken into account, it may be expected that the activity of Ukrainian entrepreneurs will be focused precisely on the Crimea. The Crimea is now becoming a kind of entrepreneurs' paradise through which money can be easily transferred abroad (incidentally, this mainly attracts shadow capital). Crimea itself will lose large sums of money, because the profit of enterprises will immediately become (artificially) minimal.

Yet, there also is a positive aspect: Such free convertibility of the karbovanets may be fabulously instrumental in raising its rate of exchange. However, an economic confrontation has added up to the political confrontation between the Crimea and Ukraine.

Crimea Seen as Potential Center for Reform, War

LD2504170894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1320 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] There was a press conference today at the Crimean Council of Ministers. Acting Minister of State Affairs Viktor Minin answered questions. He is one of the Russian specialists that have come to the Crimean Government together with Yevgeniy Saburov.

The main directions of the government's activities are already outlined. These comprise urgent reforms of the economy. Ukraine, in spite of strained political relations with Crimea, does not hinder these reforms and is ready to help in certain aspects. In any case, the policy of an open economy in Crimea is being set up in accordance with Leonid Kravchuk's decree.

For the reforms to be successful it is necessary to have a bilateral Crimean-Ukrainian treaty and a bilateral Crimean-Russian treaty. Second, there must be a favorable political atmosphere. Unfortunately, the balance of political forces on the peninsula is such that the Crimea can be regarded as a hot spot. As Minin said, Crimea could become a center from which reforms start, but it could also become a center from which war starts. He confirmed his fears with the following figures: In 1992 there were 2,500 people from the Ukrainian Armed Forces on the peninsula. In 1994 there were 50,000 people. Their deployment in the region of Sevastopol and other bays leaves one in no doubt of their aims.

Meanwhile, it is absolutely essential to Crimea that people not be afraid to come, because the summer resort season, according to Minin, is our main source of income.

There were also questions concerning the status of Sevastopol at the press conference. Minin said that every fourth inhabitant of that city is engaged in supporting the Black Sea Fleet. If the fleet is taken out of Sevastopol, this might mean a new deportation. Previous attempts to settle the Sevastopol problem have strained the situation even more.

Analyst on Likely Configuration of New Legislature

WS2504125694 Kiev KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 3

[Article by political researcher Artur Belous: "With What Will the New Parliament Begin?"]

[Text] In my opinion, a party system of so-called "political pluralism" has been established in Ukraine. Such a system is characterized by the existence of a political center, with ultraright and ultraleft oppositions. A political center is usually formed by social-democratic, liberal, and conservative parties and movements; the leftist opposition by communists; and the right is represented by neofascists. The stability of this system, and thereby the integrity of the political basis of the state, is entirely dependent on the centrist parties which form the bodies of power. When the centrist parties weakened in Italy during the 1970's, ultraleft "red brigades" unleashed their terror. In contrast, the ruling right-centrist coalition in modern France set a reliable barrier to the ultraright National Front headed by the notorious Le Pen.

Preliminary results of the legislative elections in Ukraine show a relative weakness of the center. The Interregional Bloc of Reforms [MBR] (Kuchma-Hrynoyv bloc) can be called a centrist one. "Pure" MBR members will receive no more than 20 seats. We can expect that 30-40 "independent" deputies will join them. The second part of the center is represented by the party of power. Their number of seats varies from 60 to 70, with an additional 20-30 "independent" lawyers, economists, and entrepreneurs. Therefore, the center is amorphous and resembles "a bog" more than the basis of our state's legislature.

To the right of center there is the national-democratic bloc, of which Rukh is the leader, having 28 "pure" Rukh deputies and around 10 Rukh-sympathizers. Uniting with representatives of various parties, the national democrats will likely establish the so-called Supreme Council 2, with 60-70 deputies.

The ultraright Ukrainian National Assembly and Ukrainian National Self-Defense and Khmara's Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party won five seats, and will hardly pull any strings in the legislature. The ultraleft—communists, who won 86 seats—are dangerous. Closer to the center are socialists (14 seats) and "agrarians" (18 seats). Slogans advocating the restoration of the USSR, which characterized election campaigns by communists in Donbass, question the "system" character—respect for the fundamental basis, first and foremost, of our statehood—of the revived Communist Party of Ukraine.

With what will the new legislature begin? With elections of its speaker, his deputies, and committee chairmen, because no force has a majority, "independent" Ivan Stepanovich Plyushch has a chance of becoming twofold champion in the legislative game. Communists will likely head up to two-thirds of the commissions and bear no responsibility for the formation of the government, which will likely remain unchanged, or change only slightly, pending the upcoming presidential elections.

The key issue is presidential elections. Leonid Makarovich has a weak lobby (a little over 10 presidential representatives have been elected deputies). In addition, some presidential agencies, having erroneously forecasted the nonelection of the required number of deputies—which is sufficient for the normal work of the legislature—have rendered clumsy assistance to the president, who was only once doubtful of the possibility of electing a legislature. Currently, simply out of a spirit of defiance, many deputies will not fail to remember all this.

However, external influences can work in favor of a possible subjective presidential wish to "postpone" elections. First, many potential candidates will wait for the beginning of the elections. A month and a half is not sufficient time to conduct a campaign (the legislature will begin its work on 10-15 May, while presidential elections are scheduled for 26 June). Secondly, the voting could be postponed until fall because the Rukh and other parties are not ready for the elections. This unreadiness will be masked by truly necessary constitutional changes to specify the powers of a newly elected head of the state. In addition, communists, who favor the liquidation of

the post of president, will also play their part here. In addition, though Ivan Stepanovich favors the holding of timely elections, he cannot but consider the opinion of his supporters from the local soviets, who wish to shift the elections to prolong their existence and "resolve" issues of ownership. Leonid Kuchma, who ranks first in popularity polls, could always oppose the shifting of elections, but he will hardly have majority support among the new legislators.

Given the legislative and presidential elections, we have forgotten about the election campaign for local representative organs. The battle will hardly be any easier because control over property remains the key issue. I would like to hope that a new legislature will have enough willpower to change the past legislature's decision and limit direct elections for the heads of local administrations in towns, villages, and settlements, thereby leaving only the opportunity to nominate executive heads in rayons and oblasts. Otherwise, Ukraine will face the danger of irreversible decentralization. However, the leftist bloc (more than a third of all deputies) will hardly assist in preventing the soviets' next round of attacks.

Finally, Ukrainian membership in the CIS economic union can become a key issue in the new legislature. The MBR members (potential partners of the national democrats in domestic economic reforms) could unite with communists and socialists. It is easy to foresee that many lances will be broken over the CIS economic union, which has value on paper rather than in reality.

Navy Commander Says Relocatation 'Unrealistic'

LD2504184594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1703 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] The Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Navy, Rear Admiral Vladimir Bezkorovainyy, has described relocating the Ukrainian navy from Sevastopol as "unrealistic."

In an interview with Interfax-Ukraine Monday, he said "in this case it would be necessary to relocate about 4,000 families of officers and midshipmen of the Ukrainian Navy." "Under the current economic situation in Ukraine, this is practically impossible," Bezkorovainyy said.

A top-ranking Ukrainian Navy officer told INTERFAX-Ukraine that stationing the Ukrainian navy in Balaklava was impossible. The officer added that "in the bay of Balaklava there were only 17 moorages, 15 of which were already occupied by border guards' boats."

Prior to this, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said the Ukrainian navy could be stationed in Balaklava.

The same source was quoted as saying that "vessels with a displacement of more than 1,000 tons presently built for Ukraine's fleet—patrol boats and small anti-submarine vessels—cannot enter the bay."

To ensure the fleet's normal functioning, it also needs to use the Streletskaya and Karantinnaya bays situated within Sevastopol's city line, a source in the Ukrainian navy headquarters said.

The same source supposed that the Ukrainian navy could jointly use 17 infrastructural installations of the Black Sea Fleet located in Sevastopol. "Only in this case the Ukrainian navy will be able to develop normally," the officer added.

Belarus

Hryb: Aspects of 'Partnership' Inadmissible

WS2504114494 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "NATO Initiative May Be Upheld"—first paragraph published in boldface]

[Text] At a meeting of the Belarusian Security Council, the Foreign and Defense Ministries have been asked to examine in detail the issue of possible Belarusian membership in NATO's "Partnership for Peace" initiative.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb noted that, to fulfill the request, Belarusian specialists may even have to go abroad. They will have to examine issues concerning the training of personnel and holding consultations on possible financial and technical assistance.

The "Partnership for Peace" initiative, the state leader believes, includes aspects that are both admissible and not entirely admissible to the Republic. The participation of Belarusian servicemen in peacekeeping missions aimed at preventing conflicts on territories of other states was described by Mechyslaw Ivanavich as one of the inadmissible aspects.

If a decision is made to join the initiative, the document may be signed as early as this year, Mechyslaw Hryb stated.

'Excerpts' of Hryb Address to Bucharest Forum

LD2504183894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 25 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 79 (569): Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; Edited by Vladimir Shishlin; quotation marks as received]

[Text] Below are the excerpts from Parliamentary Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb's speech at last week's international forum of newly-independent states in Bucharest.

"The Supreme Soviet and Belarusian government embraced a guarded policy of economic reforms with the main focus on treatment rather than shock to be able to ward off a sharp fall in living standards. That is why we have used fixed prices on some foodstuffs and housing rent and services rather than price liberalization over the interim period. We have kept intact subsidies on a range of essentials.

At the same time, our economy is undergoing hard times in a period of transition to market relations. Economic reform is hampered because of the huge spending involved for the purpose of disarmament and elimination of the after-effects of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

It must be said that Belarus was badly hit by the severance of economic ties, emergence of new borders and trade barriers between the republics of the former Soviet Union. Having no mineral resources of our own and being a virtual assembly plant of the former Soviet Union, we have found ourselves at an extreme disadvantage. Our producers are having to buy raw materials and fuel at prices much higher than Russia's internal prices. Nonetheless, we find it increasingly hard to compete even in the Russian market at which the country's exports are oriented.

In these conditions, we have embarked on forming an economic and monetary union with Russia in an effort to remove hurdles to the flow of goods and services, realign prices for mining products and set better conditions for the country's economic performance. In the meantime, it must be said that this will have no serious impact on our sovereignty.

Of course, we are well aware of being just at the onset of reforms and of the daunting job to be done. However, the legal groundwork for reform is already there and the pace of economic reforms is accelerating."

Hryb next pointed to a number of conclusions made following three years of the country's economic reform.

To begin with, he said, the pace of overhauling the old administrative system of economic management was lower than that of forming market infrastructures leading to lower efficiency in economic management.

Secondly, apart from internal factors, the strategy of market reforms was largely dependent on external ones which for a variety of reasons proved difficult for readjustment to the pace of domestic reforms.

Thirdly, the mentality of the public used to accept high social security guarantees as something granted appeared to be one of the stumbling blocks to the acceleration of market reforms.

Next, the widespread support for radical political and economic reforms of the late 1980's and early 1990's was followed by a sense of profound anxiety for the future. The cost of perestroyka turned out too high. Efforts aimed at an artificial acceleration of reforms have failed to bring any tangible results causing general disenchantment which has largely dented the idea of shifting to market economy.

Next, we have underestimated the factor of public unity with an aim of building a democratic society and embracing market reforms.

And finally, the emergence of an attractive legal groundwork has failed to bring the much wanted foreign investment in areas such as joint projects in engineering and power generation industries, transport and communications, chemicals and petrochemical industries and the farming sector.

Kazakhstan

Preview of PRC Premier Li Peng's Visit

LD2404121894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1156 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Amageldy Akhmetalimov and Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Alma Ata [Almaty] 24 April TASS—Li Peng, premier of China's Council of State, begins a four-day visit to Kazakhstan on Monday, 25 April, on the final leg of his tour of Central Asia republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

This will be the first visit to sovereign Kazakhstan by one of top Chinese leaders. Judging by information coming in from official circles, the visit is associated with hopes for the revitalisation and development of bilateral relations.

Goods turnover between Kazakhstan and China decreased to $205 million U.S. dollars last year as against $433 million in 1992. Only a few out of 150 registered joint ventures are engaged in production activities while the bulk of them practice trade and purchasing operations.

A number of direct agreements were concluded recently between Kazakhstan and China enterprises on establishing the co-manufacture of various types of industrial products and consumer goods. This is a good sign which shows that the basic document which determines long-term cooperation between the two neighbouring countries—the joint declaration on the principles of friendly relations, which was signed during President Nursultan Nazarbayev's visit to China in October last year—begins to work in earnest at last.

In all, 15 bilateral agreements have already been concluded. They concern political, trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural contacts between Kazakhstan and China.

Li Peng is to hold talks with Nazarbayev here in a narrow format and meet with members of the Republic's business community. There will be also talks between official delegations.

As a result of the visit, the two sides are to sign an agreement on the Sino-Kazakhstan state border, which is 1,700 km long, and agreements on a Chinese commodity credit, which is expected to amount to about 50 million U.S. dollars, to Kazakhstan, and on Chinese humanitarian aid to the Republic to the tune of 1.5 million yuan.

PRC Delegation Arrives Almaty

LD2504164594 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Excerpts] An official Chinese delegation led by Prime Minister Li Peng arrived in Almaty this afternoon for a four-day visit. At the airport of our capital, which was decorated by the state flags of the two countries and welcoming slogans, the delegation was met by President Nazarbayev and other officials. Kazakhstan Ambassador to China Murat Auezov and Chinese Ambassador to Kazakhstan Chen Di were also present. [passage omitted]

The program for the visit envisages talks between Nazarbayev and Li Peng in a narrow circle as well as talks between the delegations. The prime minister will hold a meeting at the business center with representatives of the business circles of Kazakhstan and a large group of their Chinese counterparts who have arrived in Almaty. Li Peng will visit the Merey furniture production joint stock amalgamation, hold a news conference, and familiarize himself with places of interest in our capital.

An agreement on the Kazakh-Chinese state border is expected to be signed as result of the talks, as well as agreements related to a commodity loan and humanitarian aid given by China to our Republic. These documents will be added to the range of joint agreements which have been signed concerning bilateral political, trade and economic, scientific and technical, and cultural relations. These include the joint declaration on the foundations of friendly relations, which is the main document determining future cooperation between the two neighboring states. This was signed last October, when Nazarbayev visited China.

Supreme Council Examines 'Temporary' Regulations

LD2504171494 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] At their Saturday, 23 April, session, the parliamentarians examined a draft of the temporary regulations of the Supreme Council presented by Nikolay Akuyev. From the outset of the discussion of the document, it became clear that the deputies are very strict and particular about its endorsement. Serious debates were held with regard to nominations of candidatures for the posts of chairpersons of the parliamentary committees. A provision was adopted that these candidates would be nominated not only by the speaker, but also by the deputies.

A statement on behalf of a group of the members of the Supreme Council representing Karaganda and Kostanay Oblasts was made by Boris Marinushkin. The serious economic situation of the Republic is at issue in this statement. The deputies believe that the government and the leadership of the National Bank are to blame for this situation. The deputies put forward a proposal to the Constitutional Court of the Republic to examine the competence and legality of measures taken by the Cabinet of Ministers and the National Bank.

At today's morning session examination of the draft of the temporary regulation was resumed. Provisions for setting up deputies' factions and groups and organizing

hearings in the Council were discussed in full detail. The deputies disputed those articles of the temporary regulations that envisage the setting up and functioning of the coordination council of the Supreme Council. The Supreme Council should have a special collegiate organ that will resolve unresolvable problems. The position of those who put the proposal forward got the upper hand as result of the vote. At last, the temporary regulation was endorsed; it has been suggested to produce by 1 July the standing regulation of the Supreme Council for examination by the deputies. The session then began to examine behind closed doors the issue concerning the maintenance and provision of work of the Supreme Council deputies.

Kazakh, German Defense Ministers Meet in Bonn

LD2504195594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1850 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Temnenkov]

[Text] Bonn 25 April TASS—German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe met with his Kazakh counterpart Army General Sagadat Nurmagambetov in Bonn on Monday to discuss bilateral relations.

The sides also discussed the situation in various trouble spots, nuclear and conventional arms control and prospects for Kazakhstan's accession to NATO's Partnership for Peace programme, the German Defence Ministry said in a press release.

The programme of Nurmagambetov's visit which ends on Wednesday also includes a tour of several Bundeswehr units.

Kyrgyzstan

Report on Issue of New Bank Notes in Kyrgyzstan

LD2504115794 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] According to the Kyrgyz national bank, new issue bank notes are introduced on the territory of the Republic from 25 April 1994 in conformity with the 19 April resolution of the national bank's board "On issuing new bank notes to the value of one, five, and twenty soms into circulation." New bank notes will be valid along with the previously issued notes to the value of one, ten, and 50 tiyuns and one, five, 10, and 20 soms. No restriction of circulation of all kinds and values of these bank notes is allowed on the territory of Kyrgyzstan. Damaged som and tiyun are to be accepted by commercial and national banks for replacement providing at least half of the note containing the face value and the serial number of the bank note is produced.

Agreement Signed on PRC Loan of 50-Million Yuan

LD2504111594 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 2300 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] An official visit by PRC Prime Minister Li Peng to Kyrgyzstan ends today [25 April]. Li Peng has met with President Akayev, Supreme Council Chairman Medetkan Sherimkulov, and Prime Minister Dzhumagulov. A package of official documents was signed, among them an agreement on trade and economic cooperation, an accord on the further development of cultural links, and an agreement granting a loan of 50-million yuan to Kyrgyzstan. Today Prime Ministe Li Peng will visit the Chinese Embassy and in the afternoon he will fly out to the capital of Kazakhstan.

Akayev Chairs Security Council Session

LD2204215694 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Excerpts] A regular session of the Security Council took place, which was chaired by Kyrgyz President Akayev. The session examined the question of securing the duties of the border troop units of the Russian Federation in Kyrgyzstan. The process included a wide exchange of views and thorough examination of matters concerning the provision of material, technical, as well as financial support to border troops of the Russian Federation in Kyrgyzstan. During the discussions on the question of their recruitment for military service to be carried out on a contract basis and in accordance with the interstate agreement, the prospects of the [word indistinct] citizens of Kyrgyzstan was discussed. The proposals made at the session were directed to further development of the cooperation between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation and toward protecting Kyrgyzstan's borders and maintaining friendly and good neighborly relations among the CIS countries. [passage omitted]

The Security Council examined the draft law on the question of security in the Kyrgyz Republic and submitted it to the Supreme Council session for examination.

Akayev Undergoes Surgery in Moscow

LD2504105694 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0400 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Of late President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan has had a surgical operation, reports the international ASIA newspaper. The population, who very often see him attending meetings or speaking on television, is unlikely to think the president is prone to fall ill. The president, who looks quite fit, was operated on at one of the hospitals in Moscow and resumed his duties immediately after his return to the Republic.

Tajikistan

Russian Border Guards Ready To Repel Afghan Attack

LD2204185794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1737 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Russian border guards are preparing to repel a cross border attack in Tajikistan. Officials in the Russian border guard headquarters told INTERFAX that Tajik opposition fighters and Afghan Mojahedin were expected to attack the 12th post of the Moskovskiy unit towards the end of April.

The border guard chief of staff Lieutenant General Aleksandr Tymko did not rule out the possibility that other posts of the unit would be attacked. He thought that the objective of the provocations was to wreck the peace process.

He also emphasized that the Russian border guards were capable of repelling any attack on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Increased Opposition on Afghan Border

LD2504125094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1044 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Colonel-General Grigoriy Bessmertniy, the chief of staff of the joint peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan, told INTERFAX that the opposition was stepping up its activity on the Tajik-Afghan border. Military experts estimate that about 8,000 militants have been concentrated along the Tajik-Afghan border, he said.

The situation is particularly tense in the Pyanj section, where militants attempt to cross the border and bring weapons to Tajikistan.

The opposition formations are equipped with automatic rifles, Stinger missiles, grenade launchers, recoilless rifles and self-made rocket launchers, and are much better trained than the Tajik forces.

Despite this, the Tajik opposition will not be able to break the defense line and penetrate into Tajikistan, said Bessmertniy. Tajikistan is strong enough to prevent civil war, he added.

Speaking about the role of the peacekeeping forces, he said that fighting against the Islamic opposition was not their goal. "Our goal is to prevent armed conflicts and help border guards," said Bessmertniy.

Russian Troops Intercept Militants

LD2504142094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1229 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe 25 April TASS—Russian border troops guarding the Ishkashim section of the Tajik-Afghan border intercepted a group of five militants as they tried to cross the border into Afghanistan on Sunday.

According to military sources in Dushanbe, the militants opened fire on the border troops upon being uncovered. Two of them were killed during the resulting shoot-out, and the fate of the other three is still unknown.

Saturday evening, in the same area of the border, three armed men tried to enter the Gorno-Badakhshan region of Tajikistan from Afghanistan. Their crossing attempt was supported by fire from the Afghan side. The Russian border guards returned fire, taking out the enemy's positions and killing three of the fighters, while suffering no losses themselves.

According to reliable sources in Dushanbe, Tajik opposition forces have been concentrating in the Badakhshan area of Afghanistan in the past several days. Military sources say the aim of such a concentration is to break into the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region of Tajikistan and unite there with the domestic opposition from the Pamir mountains and the central areas of Tajikistan neighboring on Pamir. The commander of the 29th infantry division of the Afghanistan Defence Ministry, Abdol Bashir Khaled, is supporting the Tajik opposition forces with transportation and military cover, according to the sources.

The Russian border troops are working together with Tajik Government forces to reinforce the threatened sector of the Tajik-Afghan border.

Tension Building on Border

LD2604094494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0938 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Report by KHOVAR correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe 26 April TASS—According to forecasts made by the military, in the near future the situation in the Pamir area of the Tajik-Afghan border will be tense.

At present, the re-stationing of armed militants, belonging to the movement of the Islamic Party of Tajikistan's Revival, continues in northern provinces of Afghanistan, and in particular, in the Badahshan Province where modernised military formations are arriving.

Military sources say that a large group of militants has concentrated in the Afghan settlement of Baharvk. The aim of the group is to destabilise the situation in the Pamir border area and cross into Tajikistan. Tajik antigovernment militants are being assisted by high-ranking Afghan military officials.

The command of Russian border guard troops in Tajikistan jointly with Tajik government troops are taking additional measures to prevent armed provocations in border areas controlled by the Ishkashim and the Horog

border guards units. Border guard posts have been reinforced in the most vulnerable border areas.

Rakhmonov Meets Austrian Ambassador

LD2504153494 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Emomali Rakhmonov, head of state and chairman of the Supreme Council of Tajikistan, received Dr. Friedrich Bauer, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Austria to Russia, today.

Friedrich Bauer will be simultaneously the ambassador of Austria to Russia and to Tajikistan. The parties examined the issues related to development of bilateral relations between Tajikistan and Austria. Karimjon Yuldoshev, state adviser on international relations and foreign policy, and Foreign Minister Rashid Olimov, also attended the meeting.

In addition, Friedrich Bauer will meet Abdujalil Samadov, the chairman of the Council of Ministers of Tajikistan.

Opposition Leader: Government Needs Russian Support

LD2504171294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 25 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolai Zherebtsov, Andrei Petrovsky, Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The leader of the Tajik opposition Akbar Turajonzoda believes that the government of Tajikistan is unable to remain in power without Russian military or economic support for even three days. In an exclusive interview with INTERFAX he stressed that if Russia wished, the civil war in Tajikistan could be stopped in a month.

He did not rule out the possibility that the opposition might exert military pressure on Dushanbe to speed up the inter-Tajik talks. According to Turajonzoda, this was told to the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev.

He said Moscow on which the future of the country largely depends underestimates the opposition. "We do not want war or bloodshed, though we are quite strong even in Dushanbe," he said.

In the opinion of Turajonzoda to prevent the inter-Tajik dialogue from following the pattern of the Georgian-Abkhaz talks the Kulyab clan that controls all key posts in the cabinet should be invited to it.

He said Tajikistan should be a democratic secular state with the church separated from the state. According to Turajonzoda, the opposition does not intend to build an Islamic state because "we shall soon be entering the 21st century." He thinks Muslim traditions can be revived only with public will through referendums. "Even if we come to power through elections, we are not going to change fundamental constitutional norms, such as the freedom of the press and the functioning of parties," he said.

The chief of the information department of the Tajik Foreign Ministry Zafar Saidov told INTERFAX that Dushanbe is aware of "plans of hostile actions" made by the irreconcilable wing of the armed opposition in the border zone. "Their purpose is to destabilize the situation in the country by escalating armed confrontation on the frontier," he said.

Quoting reliable sources Saidov claimed that military advisors and instructors from several foreign countries have come to border areas of Afghanistan to help the Tajik armed opposition.

The Tajik Foreign Ministry is also aware of the concentration of armed groups of the Islamic Renaissance Party in the immediate vicinity of the border across the Pyandzh section. According to Saidov, the ministry has reliable information about Afghan military commanders helping Tajik opposition groups carry out their hostile plans.

EBRD To Invest in Economic Development Projects

LD2604093794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0554 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Report by KHOVAR information agency correspondent Andrey Sidorin—TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, 26 Apr—The European Bank of Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] will invest in a number of economic projects in Tajikistan, such as the exploration of major deposits of minerals, hydro power engineering, and creation of joint enterprises for the processing of agricultural produce. The KHOVAR correspondent learned abut it today from Gani Dzhamalov, head of the foreign economic relations department of the Tajik Council of Ministers.

This powerful international financial body has allocated 200,000 U.S. dollars to carry out a professional assessment of the republican agro-industrial complex.

An agreement has also been reached to set aside currency funds for the development of small and medium businesses in Tajikistan.

Turkmenistan

Commentator on Li Peng Trip to Central Asia

OW2304090594 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1300 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Commentary by station observer Mulatov; from the special column "Comments on China" in the "Half an Hour With Wang Xiao" program]

[Text] Listeners and friends! Now we air the special column "Comments on China." Today we will first talk about China's interrelationships with the Central Asian nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. Our station observer Mulatov wrote a commentary on this issue:

After a one-and-a-half-year break, Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng is back on an overseas trip again. Foreign observers have pointed out that this time he is first visiting four CIS nations—Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan—and then Mongolia. It can be said that China's relations with the Central Asian countries are going through their second spring, because these countries are located along the route of China's ancient Silk Road.

President of Uzbekistan Karimov said at a state banquet honoring the distinguished guest from China: China and Uzbekistan already were linked up by the Silk Road in ancient times; and, today we have all the necessary conditions for restoring this ancient channel. The Uzbek president saw a good opportunity for developing bilateral economic cooperation and trade, as there were many entrepreneurs accompaning Prime Minister Li Peng on his trip. We will continue to talk about China's relations with the CIS Central Asian nations in our station programs.

Russia understands and appreciates China's wish to develop equal, stable, and friendly relations with these countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Some Western media are now talking about so-called Sino-Russian competition in carving out spheres of influence in the Central Asian region. I think this is wishful thinking. During a press interview, Prime Minister Li Peng unequivocally pointed out: China supports Central Asian countries' good relations with Russia. Diplomats noted that the development of China's relations with the CIS Central Asian nations, and the strengthening of Sino-Russian relations and cooperation in the economic and other fields have progressed at the same pace. Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian federal government, will visit China next month. Therefore, Russo-Chinese relations also are developing continually.

Li Peng Holds Second Round of Talks

OW2304021494 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1300 GMT 22 Apr 94

[From the "News" program]

[Text] Turkmen President Niyazov held the second round of talks with Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng in Ashkhabad. Turkmenistan agreed to establish an embassy in Beijing in the near future. Both sides discussed economic cooperation issues and reached agreements on jointly conducting historical studies.

China announced that it would offer a donation worth 1.5 million yuan to the Education Ministry of Turkmenistan.

Li Peng left for Kyrgyzstan after ending his visit to Ashkhabad today.

Moscow Journalists Meet President Niyazov

PM2604090594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Valeriy Simonov: "It Is Good To Be a Guest of Turkmenbashi"]

[Text] The leaders of the foremost Russian publications who visited Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] for the weekend at the invitation of Turkmenia President Saparmurat Niyazov had occasion to be convinced of this personally. The new five-star hotel, a whole convoy of red Volvos for the guests, lavish feasts—all this was to serve as graphic illustration of the fact that the "10 years of prosperity" economic program proclaimed by Turkmenbashi has begun to operate.

In their official, but sufficiently frank talk with President S. Niyazov, the Moscow journalists learned that:

- Turkmenia could soon become Kuwait if it sells its energy carriers to states with the real ability to pay (at present the debts of Ukraine, Georgia, and several other CIS members for Turkmen gas and oil are $1.3 billion). The president pins great hopes on the construction of gas pipelines to the West—to Iran, Turkey, and Europe—and to the East—to China and Japan;
- The idea of a Eurasian Union voiced by Nursultan Nazarbayev to the recent Moscow summit is unfounded and that countries which recently had a taste of independence will scarcely agree to some "coordinating and guiding center;"
- Turkmenbashi himself is not against criticism leveled at him but would prefer to meet it face to face in personal talks with his fellow fighters and not in the press. The president was disapproving about the Russian press, which allows itself keen attacks on Boris Yeltsin—because in Niyazov's opinion these attacks contain more destructive than creative force;
- The national assembly has already approved agreements whereby the 400,000 Russians living in Turkmenia will be able to acquire second—Russian—citizenship. That, incidentally, is so far the only instance of the solution of the problem of dual citizenship—such difficult and delicate one for the entire CIS;
- The Turkmen leader does not greatly like the abundance of portraits and sculptures of himself but believes this is a temporary enthusiasm—until the completion of the economic reforms and the appearance of property owners who will become far more independent of all kinds of ideological epidemics. Nonetheless it is better to decorate the bank notes with a portrait of the first president in Turkmenia's

history than to put pictures of animals on them....

Apart from its familiarization aspect, the Moscow journalists' meeting with Saparmurat Niyazov had a diplomatic nature: The president did everything to emphasize his right to an independent view, differing greatly from others, of the strategy and tactics of reforms and insisted on the correct coverage of Turkmen problems from Moscow and the newspapermen of course promised to be objective and assured him that Russian newspapers will not harm the Turkmen people's political stability or moral health.

As a result of this dialogue the guests hoped that the Turkmen Government will find the opportunity to subscribe to Russian publications in the second half of 1994, earmarking funds for the conversion of the manat, with which subscribers now settle acocunts for Russian publications. It was with this hope that the guest left.

Uzbekistan

France's Mitterrand Arrives in Tashkent

LD2504153594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1448 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Mikhail Kalmykov and special correspondent Vilor Niyazmatov]

[Text] Tashkent, 25 Apr—Francois Mitterrand, president of the French Republic, arrived in the Uzbek capital on a three-day state visit this evening. Uzbek President Islam Karimov welcomed him he emerged from the president's Concorde at the Tashkent airport, which was decorated with the state flags of the two countries.

The heads of the two states had a 30-minute conversation at the suburban residence "Durmen," where the guest will stay. Official talks attended by the two countries' delegations will continue tomorrow.

Begins Talks With Karimov

LD2504211594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1530 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Mikhail Kalmykov and special ITAR-TASS correspondent Vilor Niyazmatov]

[Text] Tashkent, 25 Apr—French President Francois Mitterrand arrived this evening in the capital of Uzbekistan on a three-day state visit. At Tashkent Airport, which was decorated with the flags of the two countries, he was greeted at the steps of the presidential Concord by Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov.

The two heads of state had a private meeting at the country residence "Durmen," where the guest is staying. Later the Uzbek president hosted a banquet in Francois Mitterrand's honor.

Official talks with the participation of the delegations from both countries will continue tomorrow. It is expected that the agenda will include a wide range of topics on international politics and bilateral relations. It seems that the parties will also talk about the situation in the region, in particular about the situation in Tajikistan and Afghanistan, as well as security problems and stability in the Central Asia, and relations between CIS countries. A large group of bankers and heads of major companies is accompanying the president. They are hoping to establish positive contacts with their Uzbek counterparts.

The tense situation in Bosnia has had an interesting effect on the protocol of the visit. Paris, apparently unwilling to leave unattended the Balkan side of its international policy, announced at the last minute that the composition of the delegation would be changed. Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has been replaced by Minister of European Affairs Alain Lamassoure on the list of officials accompanying the president.

French Envoy Comments

LD2504183794 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0215 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Today, French President Francois Mitterrand will arrive in our country on a state visit until 27 April. This visit will further deepen equal and mutually advantageous cooperation between the two countries. Our program recorded an interview by our correspondent with Jean-Paul Vezian, extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of France to Uzbekistan.

[Vezian, in French fading to Russian report] The official visit of French President Francois Mitterrand to your country, says Jean-Paul Vezian, is considered in France to be very important because this is the first visit by a head of state of one of the EU countries. Today, we know Uzbekistan as a country with an ancient culture and at the same time a young and quickly developing country that values the preservation of peace and provisions for collective and calm work of all the peoples residing in Uzbekistan. We are expecting a lot of development in the social and political spheres, the creation of a democratic and open society, and the implementation of reforms allowing for the overcoming of the crisis situation in the economy inherited from the former USSR.

Answering a question on specific examples of French-Uzbek cooperation, Vezian pointed to cooperation in reviving the field of aviation in the country. Uzbekistan is one of the first countries in the region that has introduced airbuses constructed by Europeans for its aviation routes. These are being prepared in France and in Germany. There is a very interesting project for the joint reconstruction of Tashkent airport, which in its

current condition cannot meet the increasing demands of Tashkent as a major center in Central Asia. The firm Thompson for example, is carrying out the introduction of radar equipment at Tashkent airport.

We are hoping to participate in the development of all spheres of industry, noted Vezian, which will allow Uzbekistan to achieve real economic independence. This is foremost in the fields of oil and cotton processing, and also the food industry. We already have interesting projects for irrigation, construction of textile and oil processing enterprises, the use of cotton for the production of paper, and also public services in various cities of the country. We hope for the successful use here of French firms' experience in the production of food products. In short, we are prepared to support all efforts for the speedy industrialization of the most important areas in the economy.

I think that initial successes will be strengthened by the introduction of the national currency, which will strengthen the mechanism for guaranteeing foreign investments. In the final instance it will be these factors that will create favorable conditions for the successful economic development of the country.

Armenia

Iraq Reportedly Delivering Oil to Armenia

NC2304111894 Baku TURAN in English 0910 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 22) TURAN—Despite the international embargo imposed against Iraq, Armenia is purchasing Iraq's oil products, the information centre of the Azerbaijan Independence Democratic Party was told by sources close to the current regime of Baghdad. The same sources report that oil products were delivered first to Iran and from there they were sent to Armenia under the pretext of Iranian raw material.

Armenia receives oil products from Russia, Iran and Iraq.

Foreign Minister Papazyan Visits Romania

944K1115A Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed article in the "Official Chronicle" column]

[Text] The visit of Vagan Papazyan, foreign minister of the Republic of Armenia, to Romania began on 19 April. He met with President Ion Iliescu, to whom he will give a message from President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan.

As the Department of the Press and Public Liaison of the Republic of Armenia informs us, V. Papazyan also met with Adrian Nastase, speaker of the upper chamber of the Romanian parliament, Nicolae Vacaroiu, prime minister, and Teodor Melescanu, minister of foreign affairs of that country.

A consular convention will be signed by the two countries within the framework of the visit of the Republic of Armenia minister of foreign affairs.

Between 21 and 24 April, Mr. Papazyan will take part in the proceedings of an assembly in Krans-Montana.

Military Call-Up Completed

944K1115C Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by A. Yerkanyan: "The Reservist Call-Up Was Successful"]

[Text] Yet another three-month call-up of reserve officers and reserve personnel which has outraged the advocates of human rights and delighted the military has ended. There are clearly more men on the streets. Functionaries of law enforcement organs have clearly become more restrained.

Pacifists and militarists continue to argue about the justification of the use of coercive measures with regard to those evading service. At the same time, enemy designs are being manifested as plainly as the unhappiness of the world community with the militarization of the region. Therefore, which is more proper under the existing conditions—to enhance combat readiness in order to confirm for the enemy that the designs do not make sense, or refrain from unpopular measures that upset the world in order to demonstrate our lack of involvement in combat actions to the east of our borders? In answering this question, we should still take into account the fact that the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict long ago entered the stage at which it could easily spread to the territory of interested states.

The latter circumstance is the main argument of the leaders of the defense department.

As far as the call-up itself is concerned, it was quite successful, as was to be expected. The activities held were evaluated as excellent by the organizational and mobilization directorate. Chief of the Directorate General Artur Arutyunyan stated that "everything went even better than could have been expected. The plan has been fulfilled 100 percent." Likewise according to him, "the martial spirit of the draftees is at the appropriate level" and "an overwhelming majority of them set out to serve with song and dance and in a wonderful mood."

Georgia

Russian Officer Appointed Defense Minister

LD2604110294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1053 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi April 26 TASS—The Georgian parliament today appointed Lieutenant-General of the Russian Armed Forces Vardiko Nadibaidze, a Georgian by nationality, to the post of Georgian defence minister. Nadibaidze had formerly served as assistant commander of the group of Russian troops in Transcaucasia.

His candidature was proposed by Eduard Shevardnadze, head of the Georgian state, and approved by the overwhelming majority of the georgian parliament.

Nadibaidze was born in Georgia. He is 55 years old, thirty-eight of which were devoted to military service.

Iranian Envoy Promises Gas Supplies

LD2504204994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1950 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] The press secretariat of the head of state reports that Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze today received Fereidn Haqbin, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Georgia. They discussed supplying Georgia with Iranian natural gas. The two sides agreed that soon a relevant agreement would be signed between the two countries.

The Iranian ambassador expressed his country's interest in widening trade and economic relations between Iran and Georgia. He said that despite the difficult situation in Georgia, it is still possible to use the available potential of the Georgian economy, industry, agriculture, and in particular light industry and car manufacturing, as well as to establish mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation.

Shevardnadze Weekly Interview

LD2504103894 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0600 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Regular weekly interview with Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze by Nato Oniani in Tbilisi—live]

[Excerpts] [Oniani] Good morning. We are presenting a radio interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state. Mr. Shevardnadze, I remember you said during last week's interview that no grave crime had been committed in the republic for the last 24 hours. On 20 April, a new terrorist act was committed in Tbilisi, when Major General Gia Gulua, head of the transport police and a deputy interior minister, was assassinated.

Do you think this killing could be politically motivated? At any rate, considering the result, we can say that the event has created the impression that the authorities are not sufficiently secure; it has also raised questions as to who will be next and why all this is being done. A feeling has been created both within the country and outside that terrorist acts are common in Georgia. Furthermore, the time has come when it is necessary to have the investigation brought to completion so that this case will not remain a common unsolved case of a terrorist act.

[Shevardnadze] Thank you. Good morning. I already expressed some of my concerns regarding this case at a meeting of heads of law enforcement bodies and rayons of the republic which was shown on Georgian television; those who were interested were able to hear them then. This is an event that has given rise to grave concern. [passage omitted]

Of course, I have charged the law enforcement bodies to solve the case in the very near future and to ensure that incidents like this do not happen again. I have said that the bodies which must fight terrorism and which must aim to reach a situation where they are able to rule out terrorism as a phenomenon are still not up to the mark.

This cannot be justified by asserting that Georgia is not an exception and terrorist acts happen in other countries, too. This is true. They do happen in other countries, too. But this could prove disastrous for Georgia. If the world gets an established image of Georgia as a country where terrorism is a common occurrence, we will not be able to speak about the development of a large and serious economy or about the involvement of big and serious foreign business.

So this is a political issue, and that is why I regard terrorism as a phenomenon which should be combated with all possible means. However, we cannot rule out the possibility that Gia Gulua's assassination was connected with past deeds. [passage omitted]

Now, are the authorities and senior officials in general adequately protected? I would say that they must be provided with the essential minimum. Although I prohibit anything excessive—I mean special means and special transport that require large expenses—the minimum of what is needed to protect the authorities should be provided and it has not been sufficiently provided so far. In any normal country, the authorities should have guarantees of security. Thus, we have to draw serious conclusions from what has happened. [passage omitted]

[Oniani] During your meeting with law enforcement bodies you spoke about drug addiction. Last week your edict on urgent measures to enhance the struggle against drug addiction and drug trafficking was released. According to this edict, a national bureau to combat drug addiction and drug trafficking has been established on the basis of a former ministry department with a similar task. Is it possible that this edict will share the fate of your previous edict? We are very well aware that no one has quit his post because of drug addiction; there have been no cases like this. Do you think it possible to fight against the phenomenon when, for instance, Irakli Menagharishvili, our deputy prime minister, said during that meeting that the narcotics gangs had powerful patrons in the power structures [Security, Defense, and Interior Ministries and Procurator's Office]. The population knows everything and is very well aware of the ways drugs are brought into Georgia, who sells them, and what bars a supplier has to pass, or rather, whom and how much he has to pay to bring these drugs into Georgia. Yet another question, if you permit. Will the law relating to drug traffickers become stricter? This was also mentioned at your meeting with law enforcement bodies.

[Shevardnadze] Drug addiction, together with terrorism, must be considered as the most serious threat to our national statehood and, I would say, to the whole population—all citizens and our future generations. The thing is that Georgia attracts drugs trafficking by its geographic situation, and will attract more in future. Regrettably, no guarantees have been created in the world to restrict the growth of drug trafficking into an international force. It is not late yet; drug addiction and drug trafficking have not reached syndicate proportions and they should never do so. [passage omitted] When drug trafficking reaches that stage, Georgia will not be able to afford a fight like this. It will hardly be possible to overcome the problem later. [passage indistinct]

Thus, paramount importance is attributed to an edict I signed recently and structures being established at the moment—in particular, a government commission which will be chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Irakli Menagharishvili. Working groups have been established.

The same sort of commissions and groups should be established in rayons and towns. [passage indistinct] A battle has started. This will be a long and complex battle and I agree with Deputy Prime Minister Menagharishvili that much will depend on how we succeed in destroying any kind of support for drug trafficking within the law enforcement bodies. Playing with drugs and especially patronizing drug trafficking must be declared a dreadful crime.

I am for making laws stricter. Of course, parliament will make the ultimate decision but, if needed, I can use my right of legislative initiative to speed up drafting laws and to set conditions for the parliament to create a legal basis for fighting drug addiction and drug trafficking.

[Oniani] Talks pertaining to the Abkhazian issue continued last week. How should the results of our activities be seen today in light of the Moscow meeting in May? Another question: It was said on television yesterday that we did not capture Gudauta because Shevardnadze thought that this would result in the genocide of Abkhazians and psychologically that was not the aim of the Georgian side. Could you comment on this, because it is not very explicit?

[Shevardnadze] [passage omitted] A meeting in Moscow has been arranged for 10 May. Roughly the same parties as in Geneva will be involved there. The representation may be wider in certain issues. I would say that if the 10 May Moscow meeting fails to pass a decisive and serious resolution under the UN aegis, securing all conditions for a safe return of refugees that would be acceptable to us, we will be obliged rather than forced to appeal to the CIS. [passage indistinct]

There is a third version combining the two. According to this, there will be military forces in accordance with the CIS summit concept and UN observers. However, this combination would be more complicated, I suppose. We are rather short of time and I believe the UN representatives will seriously consider compressing the time so that the UN accomplishes its mission. If it does not, we will turn to the CIS and will have everything done within a CIS framework.

As for the question pertaining to last night's television program, I can say that the question was asked in such a way as to imply that Shevardnadze was concerned about danger and so on. My God, some people enjoy turning inside out 100,000 times what I have said 10,000 times.

I have explained why all this happened so many times. There were not even any plans to enter Gudauta, just as there were no plans to stop in Sukhumi. There were even no plans to enter Sukhumi. I did not issue an order to enter Sukhumi. This was an unauthorized action. And now it is being interpreted in a special way. I think that, having entered Sukhumi, the troops should not have stopped there. We spent [word indistinct] days in Sukhumi and no one knows how we spent these days. You all know that.

Later, after Sukhumi, our troops were in Leselidze, Gantiadi, and Gudauta and then the question of joining those troops by marching from Sukhumi through Gudauta was put forward, but it was too late. Strong defense lines and covering forces had been created there. A question was asked whether to enter Gudauta or not. Then I expressed my opinion, indicating that it would be wrong to enter Gudauta. There would be heavy casualties. Of course many thousands of Georgians would be killed but the Abkhazians who were there would be exterminated. I do not think anyone can see anything odd in the fact that the head of state demonstrated certain caution and care about people. We can call it genocide or simply elimination. This was the case.

But this probably was not the only thing. I am saying this for the first time. Marching into Gudauta meant a virtually direct clash between Russian and Georgian Armed Forces. This was the issue then. [passage omitted] Everyone must realize that it was not just like that that we could march into Gudauta, and because we did not do it, we lost everything. But apparently we have not lost absolutely everything because we did not go for Gudauta. You are all well aware what a direct clash with Russia Armed Forces would mean. Everyone knows why it was like this, what forces were accumulated at Gudauta Bombora airport and the adjacent territory, how much armament was concentrated there, and many other things. This is my answer: we could not act otherwise.

[Oniani] There is no logic in demanding that the government admit officially that Russia was fighting against us in Abkhazia on one hand and on claiming that we could capture Gudauta and did not do so on the other hand, because if Russia fought against us and Russian forces were involved in it, no one would give up Gudauta.

[Shevardnadze] This kind of talk has to be stopped, too. Some say that we have to declare that we were and we still are in a state of war with Russia. They did not realize then and fail to realize now what effect this would have. [passage omitted]

[Oniani] Mr. Shevardnadze, you visited the Tavtavi agricultural scientific and production organization yesterday and familiarized yourself with its activities. What are your impressions?

[Shevardnadze] I spoke yesterday at the meeting attended by scientists, practical workers, experts, and in the first instance the staff of Tavtavi and the management of the organization. [passage omitted] The less we talk about the country having been ruined and about the country being doomed and beyond salvation, and the more we think of the available resources and possibilities which remain unused and which do not require investing billions, the better.

Here is one concrete example. What can be done by cultivating soya? No country can survive without fats. We are importing fat just by grams. We sell 200 grams of margarine a month to the population and think that this

is the height of delight. But life cannot go on like this. [passage omitted] Georgia seems to be created for the purpose of cultivating soya. I said yesterday that in 1905-1910 some 360,000 pounds of soya was exported from Kutaisi to Japan. We have forgotten all this.

I returned from my visit very encouraged. The people there care about production. We have certain foreign credits we can invest in this business. We can after all buy a factory. We can conclude a contract with farmers on good and favorable terms. A possibility will probably be found to pay them in kind, or in dollars so that they are able to safeguard their life.

The main thing is that we have to create an owner, a proprietor, I mean a proprietor in science, in industry, and a proprietor in breeding this culture. I am deeply convinced that if we take to this business using all our potential fully, I mean the scientific potential, an industrial potential and all our experience, the harvest will be miraculous. [passage omitted]

If we add the production of rape which provides huge long-term effects, and which also provides a large quantity of vegetable oil, we will be able to satisfy our own requirements. The development of cattle production will take a little longer and we have to search for ways to do this.

Although the meeting could have been held without me, I went there yesterday to say that we possess huge reserves. [passage omitted]

[Oniani] The parliamentary majority made a statement last week about the necessity for drastic economic reforms. During your speech at the meeting with the law enforcement bodies you said that the implementation of decisions made in the economic sphere is essential. Does this mean that a decision has already been made and really drastic economic reforms will be implemented in the very near future?

[Shevardnadze] I have long been aware that without drastic economic reforms the country will not be able to overcome the crisis and [words indistinct]. But in order to speak seriously about drastic reforms we needed basic preconditions—I mean, we had to prevent the danger of a civil war and help the country to escape the state of war. Now, we have an opportunity to draw breath. It has also been necessary to establish basic order. One can hardly speak of drastic economic reforms without establishing basic order. At present, this precondition is also being created. [passage omitted]

For me, a decision on the implementation of drastic economic reforms already exists. The essence of the activities is to speed up the process and we are creating grounds to go ahead in this direction. Drastic measures are necessary for the creation of [word indistinct] of money. We have had talks on this subject and I think that by the end of April we will know what to do and what actions are to be taken to bring the economy into a relatively healthy state.

A drastic turn is necessary toward ownership. I dream of the time when every citizen is as proprietor. Every citizen must have a certain share in the wealth created over hundreds of years. This may be production or commercial spheres or any other. [passage omitted]

Drastic measures are also required to create the most favorable conditions for foreign investments. There is competition in this field, too. Investments stream down to countries where the most favorable conditions exist. Conditions for this can be created by geography, geopolitics, relative order, and so on, but unless there is a taxation system stimulating investors to come here, to settle down, and lay firm grounds for himself in order to help us and gain something for himself, no large-scale foreign investments will enter Georgia.

Also drastic measures must be taken in the fight against corruption. I have often spoken about this. Corruption will nip in the bud any kind of initiative. A proprietor's work will be made futile if this disease gets into the whole structures of the huge state institutions and lawenforcement bodies. [passage omitted]

In concluding our present conversation I would like to say that we shall be able to come out of the crisis only by drastic reforms, and the time is ripe for this. [passage omitted]

Estonia

Prime Minister Returns From U.S. Visit

WS2504184494 Tallinn ETA in English 1727 GMT 25 Apr 94

["News Release"]

[Text] After returning from a visit to the U.S., Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar, on Monday [25 April], pointed to his meetings with U.S. Defence Minister William Perry and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali as the most influential during his visit.

Laar told a press conference, on Monday, that his meeting with Perry was extremely efficient in discussion of situation of Estonian defence forces, borderguard and the Baltic peacekeeping battalion to be formed. He pointed to Perry's statement that the U.S. will not let anyone "dictate in what amount and with whom it will develop security policy cooperation". He added that U.S. concern about Estonian-Russian interstate negotiations was illustrated by the fact that Perry expressed clear support to unconditional Russian troop withdrawal from Estonia by August 31, 1994.

Laar said that during his meetings in the U.S., he discussed possible arms deals but no concrete plans to buy arms have been made yet. He said that we had to better define our defence forces conception to decide what kind of arms Estonia needed. He added that arms aid programmes will be discussed more closely at the forthcoming visit of a NATO delegation.

As to his meeting with UN Secretary General, Laar said that Butrus Butrus- Ghali adopted a very strong position as to Russian troop withdrawal. "If it is clear in May that Russian troops do not move and no preparations to troop withdrawal take place, Ghali asked to turn to UN to apply mechanisms that are in UN disposal," Laar said.

Foreign Advisers Arrive To Help Peacekeeping Unit

WS2504123194 Tallinn BNS in English 0944 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 25, BNS—An 11-member delegation of officers from the Nordic countries and Great Britain arrived Monday [25 April] morning in Tallinn to advise the Estonian military on the formation of the country's unit for the Baltic peacekeeping battalion.

The delegation includes officers from Great Britain, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland, who have considerable experience in arranging international peacekeeping operations.

The members of the delegation give a press conference at the Foreign Ministry Monday afternoon.

Statistics Department Reports Consumer Price Data

WS2504142194 Tallinn BNS in English 1333 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 25, BNS—The Statistics Department informs that the Estonian consumer price index rose by 16.9 percent in the first three months of this year against the fourth quarter of 1993.

The principal factor behind the overall rise was the March increase in the cost of living, when goods and services went up by 8.9 percent. The cost of living grew 5.2 percent in February and 5.5 percent in January.

In the first quarter, services went up by an average of 24.7 percent and goods, by 13.1 percent. Foods rose by 17.4 and manufactured goods, by 6.7 percent.

Under services, housing expenditures grew the most, by 25.3 percent, followed by transport and communications with a 21.7- percent increase, and outlays on leisure with 11.2 percent.

Of foods, fruit and vegetables showed a 33.6-percent increase for seasonal reasons; milk, dairy products and eggs went up by 30.3 percent, fats by 20.7 percent, meat and fish by 17.4 percent, and non-alcoholic beverages by 16.3 percent.

Goods and services were in the first quarter an average of 44.1 percent more expensive than in the first quarter of last year.

Latvia

Cabinet Committee Approves Defense System Concept

LD2504183094 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] The Foreign Affairs and Security Committee of the Cabinet of Ministers today approved the concept of the defense system of the Republic of Latvia. According to this concept, the state defense system comprises the national armed forces, the joint systems of personnel and supplies, and non-military institutions of the state defense system.

The concept of the defense system provides for Latvian involvement in general and regional processes of the European economic and political development and the unified European security system, coordinated exercises of the Baltic states, setting up weaponry and information exchange systems and joint military units with them, and cooperation with them in the spheres of control of the state border, territory, territorial waters, the economic zone of the Baltic Sea, and airspace. The concept lays down tasks for each constituent part of the national armed forces in implementing the state's defense.

Newspaper Claims Foreign Minister Former KGB Agent

LD2604084494 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0530 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Just as several other publications have recently done, the DIENA newspaper today published the names of the possible KGB five who in their time collaborated with the State Security Committee. They are: [Latvian minister without portfolio] Edvins Inkens, [Latvian Foreign Minister] Georgs Andrejevs, Roberts Milbergs [member of the For the Fatherland and Freedom group], Andrejs Silins [a Latvian Way group deputy], and Aivars Kreituss [a Democratic Centre group deputy].

In an interview with DIENA, Romans Apsitis, associate chairman of the Commission on Mandates and Ethics, declined to either confirm or disprove this information. But there is more about this in today's issue.

Russian Negotiator Pledges Army Out by 31 Aug

LD2504162294 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] The Russian delegation which is to take part in the final stage of the interstate talks, before the two countries' presidents sign a treaty on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia, this afternoon arrived in Riga from Moscow.

Russian delegation head Sergey Zotov told journalists that the talks about the last adjustments to the treaty will be taking place in Riga for no longer than two days.

[Begin Zotov recording in Russian with superimposed Latvian translation] First I want to say that the agreements initialled by us have been misunderstood in Latvia. I repeat, Russia itself will take care of the social guarantees for the military personnel discharged from its Army, and the payment of pensions will also be our responsibility. We do not ask that the Russian military be given special privileges. However, I will add that the international obligations which your country has undertaken to guarantee at the United Nations for the citizens of another country must be observed.

Reports by the mass media on the interstate agreements initialled between Latvia and Russia, as well as their discussion by the Saeima, have been distorted. Russia will withdraw the Army by 31 August. We are ready for the meeting of the two countries' presidents and the signing of the treaty. Russia is not interested in changing its stance, which has already been in force for two years. [end recording]

Prime Minister Birkavs Leaves for Germany

LD2504130694 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs has left for Dusseldorf, the capital of the German province of North Rhine- Westphalia, where he will attend the annual Dusseldorf Dialogues conference.

Today, Birkavs will make a speech at the conference, in which the main attention will be paid to the prospects for the economic development of Latvia and the possibility of investment in Latvia. The prime minister will also be speaking about Latvian security policy, topical problems of foreign policy, and integration into European structures. Birkavs is also scheduled to have a meeting with North Rhine-Westphalia Prime Minister Johannes Rau.

Lithuania

Poland's Walesa Arrives on Official Visit

LD2604080694 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0700 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Polish President Lech Walesa and his wife Danuta started an official visit to the Republic of Lithuania this morning. This is the first visit to our country by the top leader of this neighboring country this century, ELTA reported. [passage omitted]

Lech Walesa and his wife Danuta Walesa were met by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas and his daughter Audrone Usoniene. [passage omitted] The president of Lithuania introduced the Lithuanian officials who were at the airport: Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius; Kazys Bobelis, chairman of the Seimas Foreign Affairs Committee; Justas Paleckis, ambassador at large and the president's foreign affairs adviser; Deputy Foreign Minister Vladislovas Domarkas; Dainius Junevicius, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Poland; and other officials.

The Polish president introduced the members of his country's delegation: Janusz Ziolkowski, State minister, chief of the president's chancellery; Mieczyslaw Wachowski, state minister, chief of the president's office; Deputy Foreign Minister Iwo Byczewski; Jan Widacki, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Lithuania; and other officials. [passage omitted]

The Polish president left the airport for the Antakalnis cemetery where he paid homage to the memory of those who died for Lithuania's freedom. He also visited the graves of the Polish soldiers buried there. [passage omitted]

After a short rest, Lech Walesa will meet Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas. The meeting is to last for about half an hour. Simultaneously, Lithuanian and Polish delegations will also hold a meeting.

At 1200, the Lithuanian and Polish presidents will sign a treaty between the two states. After the signing ceremony, the Polish president will address the Lithuanian Seimas. Later he will meet Lithuanian Seimas Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas. [passage omitted]

Brazauskas Interviewed on Relations With Poland

WS2504193194 Vilnius ELTA in English 1817 GMT 25 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 484]

[Text] Vilnius, April 25, ELTA—Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas told the radio that he "would try to evaluate the historical stage of the Lithuanian-Polish relations at the Seimas plenary meeting on Tuesday" [26 April].

Speeches by Lithuanian and Polish presidents will be delivered soon after the treaty is signed. The ceremony should take place around the noon on Tuesday.

Brazauskas said that the treaty included problems of the national minorities and expressed hope that the articles of the treaty would make a solid background to solve the problems of Lithuanians in Poland and Poles in Lithuania on a parity basis".

Brazauskas put accents on educational problems. He said that meanwhile 127 Polish schools worked in Lithuania while at the beginnning of the national revival there were only 92. Last year there were 148 groups for Polish children in the pre-school institutions.

1200 young people of Polish nationality study at the institutions of higher education, 400 every year leave for Poland to study. Brazauskas reminded that last year the Polish language and literature department had been established at Vilnius University. 40 students study at the department.

Six specialities can be studied in Polish language at Vilnius Pedagogical University. Polish is also studied at Kaunas and Vilnius Seminaries.

Four Polish periodicals out of eight which circulate in Lithuania receive the support from the state. Polish radio and television are broadcasted in Lithuania.

At the beginning of the year 261.5 thousand people of Polish nationality lived in Lithuania, which made seven percent of the total population.

There are 35 thousand of Lithuanians in Poland. They have several schools, a magazine and broadcast radio features from Bialystok.

Brazauskas said he did not want to set one nation against the other, however, Lithuanians in Poland had more cultural problems. Brazauskas hoped to discuss many of them during the meeting with Walesa.

Polish Daily Comments on Treaty With Lithuania

WS2504193294 Vilnius ELTA in English 1817 GMT 25 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 484]

[Text] Warsaw, April 25, ELTA—Polish social democratic newspaper the TRYBUNA published an interview with Stanislav Meler, deputy director of the European Department at the Polish Foreign Ministry who had participated in drafting the bilateral treaty.

Meler said: "During the conversations with Lithuanians I have noticed well-grounded doubts about whether the treaty really will change relations between our countries or whether it will merely be a paper. Everything will depend on the "political will".

"All the articles of the treaty on the national minorities make a solid background for the normalization of our relations, in the psychological aspect in particular. We managed to avoid formulations in the treaty which could stipulate irritation or show the superiority of one country over the other", Meler said.

"The realization of the treaty which will be signed for 15 years and then automaticaly expanded, will depend on the political benevolence of the both states", Meler noted.

It is admitted in the article that the preparation of the treaty with Lithuania, the last neighbour with which Poland did not have any document, was long and complicated. It was protracted because Lithuanians demanded that the so-called occupation of Vilnius region in the inter-war period by Poland should be condemned in the treaty.

Brazauskas Wants Resumption of Belarus Border Talks

LD2204180794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1415 GMT 22 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Algirdas Brazauskas believes that the process of delimitation and demarkation of the border between Lithuania and Belarus "is unjustifiably dragged out" after the change in the Belarussian government.

In an interview with Interfax in Bucharest where Brazauskas arrived for taking part in the international forum on the burning economic and political problems, the Lithuanian leader noted that after the resignation of the chairman of the Belarussian parliament Stanislav Shushkevich "meetings suspended" between corresponding intergovernmental delegations and experts of Foreign Ministries. The Lithuanian president intends to discuss this subject with the head of the Belarussian parliament Mechyslaw Hyrb now visiting Bucharest and hopes that corresponding talks will resume in the near future.

Brazauskas made it clear that he intends to insist on the division of the border railway station Adutiskes claimed by both states and on its joint use.

Interfax has information that the dispute over this station occurred during the delimitation of the Belarussian-Lithuanian border at the level of experts.

Prime Minister on Leadership, Opposition

WS2204143094 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 16 Apr 94 No. 74 p 5

[Interview with Adolfas Slezevicius, Lithuanian prime minister and LDDP chairman, by LDDP Deputy Chairman Gediminas Kirkilas; place and date not given: "We Will Continue To Seek Stability"]

[Text] [Kirkilas] Mr. Chairman, tomorrow marks the first anniversary of your election as the new leader of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP] at its third congress.

Assuming this double responsibility, you, as well as the LDDP, legalized a norm which is new to Lithuania's political life, but which is traditional in Western democratic systems, when leaders of a party that has the majority in the legislature also become heads of the Cabinet of Ministers.

[Slezevicius] If this tradition takes root in our country, the voters will know in the next elections who will be prime minister if one party or another wins the ballot.

[Kirkilas] Currently, the Social Democrats are trying to collect signatures from Seimas [parliament] deputies so as to announce an interpellation to your government. According to Western standards, this would mean that A. Sakalas, leader of the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party, claims... the office of prime minister. However, I would like to ask you about something else. In your opinion, why is a no-confidence vote, which—this is clear—has no perspective, initiated now when the first shoots of stability are emerging in the country, albeit with difficulty?

[Slezevicius] Maybe, because of this particular fact. I would not like to believe, however, that Lithuania's Social Democrats could be for destabilization. They may be trying to correct in a peculiar way the mistake they made after the elections—their refusal to form a governing coalition with the LDDP.

[Kirkilas] Why did that happen? Did they want to attract attention to themselves or prevent the LDDP from joining the Socialist International?

[Slezevicius] Both the Social Democrats and other parties are misled by the thought that the LDDP will fail to form a cabinet by itself, and that it will collapse shortly in this difficult and critical situation when hyperinflation is flourishing, prices are rising, and living standards are declining, to say nothing of the crime rate. Why should they go with those who will fall soon? Therefore, they have chosen the position of hesitation, observation, and criticism.

[Kirkilas] After it became clear that these tactics are fruitless, they have undertaken more radical moves—to declare an interpellation to the government, that is, to enhance the post- election mistake. Might the Social Democrats' criticism be partially correct?

[Slezevicius] Of course. We ourselves see certain faults.

The government is open to all political forces. As the government and party leader, I am ready to consult with other parties and adopt their proposals. This does not require the moves that discredit Lithuania's stability.

The Social Democrats' actions are quite controversial: They are proposing a coalition alongside a no-confidence motion in the government. They immediately put forward additional conditions—other parties must also participate in this coalition....

[Kirkilas] A broader coalition is hardly possible in Lithuania today. Moreover, the right-wing parties do not voice such a desire. However, I believe that it is necessary to discuss and consult on these issues.

Let us go back to the LDDP. You have toured more than 30 Lithuanian regions and towns over the year. What are your impressions?

[Slezevicius] There have really been quite a few meetings. They were extremely useful: I saw how people react to and assess government actions. I understood better which governing methods are more effective and what problems are the most pressing.

I see that society is changing: Aggressiveness and anger are fading. There is a more constructive and businesslike approach. Most of the questions (about 60-70 percent) concerned the return of property and loans. Particularly many mistakes were made in agriculture. They are also the most difficult to correct.

LDDP members are very active everywhere. They are often more critical than their political opponents. However, they are benevolent.

[Kirkilas] Could you now say that both positions—the leader of the government and the party—compliment or impede each other?

[Slezevicius] I can say with confidence that this not easy. One thing is obvious that the government leader, who is constantly accountable to the party and the political force that has nominated him, will always be more determined in making his decisions and will understand problems much better. All of Lithuania's former prime ministers were not delegated to the government by definite parties. This may have partially determined their failures.

A party represents support not only during elections, but particularly after them, when one must implement the promised program.

[Kirkilas] What are your immediate plans as party leader?

[Slezevicius] We will continue to seek stability—in the economy, politics, social life, and relations with our neighbors.

Although our opponents do not notice any positive changes, the latter do exist nonetheless. Not only we ourselves, but also independent experts and specialists from the World Bank and the IMF speak about them. One has the impression that it is this fact that causes our political opponents' greatest concern. Therefore, their criticism resembles more an election campaign than a constructive opposition.

Our party has begun to prepare for the self-government elections. It is very important that Lithuanian people choose those who will be capable of dealing with the problems in their region, town, or village, and of resolving them in a competent manner rather than engaging in politics.

The LDDP leadership, Presidium, and Seimas faction have recently discussed and projected decision lines in social, health, cultural, educational, and other spheres. We will return to legal, national security, and other problems in the immediate future.

[Kirkilas] I wish the following year was successful for you as LDDP leader.